

For financial aid purposes, federal regulations have defined an independent student as a student who:

- Was born before January 1, 2000.
- Is working on a master's or doctorate program or graduate certificate at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year.
- Is married.
- Has documentation from an approved agency indicating homeless status.
- Has children who will receive more than half of their support from the student.
- Has a dependent (other than their own children or spouse) that live with them and will receive more than half of their support from the student, now and through June 30, 2024.
- Has both parents deceased or who was a ward/dependent of the court until age 18 or was in foster care.
- Is a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces or is currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces.
- Is/was an emancipated minor or in legal guardianship as determined by the court.

Deadlines

- *Fall 2023- September 8, 2023*
- *Spring 2024- February 2, 2024*
- *Summer 2024- May 10, 2024*

If you do not meet one of the conditions above, you are considered a dependent student and **must** use your parent information on the FAFSA. On the other hand, if you were removed from the household due to abuse or abandonment, or you feel that you have mitigating circumstances, you may request a dependency status change based on exceptional circumstances. Please submit the required documentation below.

Documentation Required
Statement on the reverse side describing your family history along with two statements (on letterhead) from third parties, such as clergy, educator, physician, social worker, police report, etc., who know and are willing to substantiate in writing the nature of your extenuating circumstances.
Documents showing how you are currently supporting yourself, if applicable (e.g., a recent employment stub).
Your 2021 federal tax transcript (if filed).
Photo ID or driver's license showing your current address.

STUDENTS CANNOT BE CONSIDERED INDEPENDENT IF:

- Parents refuse to contribute to the student's education.
- Parents are unwilling to provide information on the FAFSA or required documentation.
- Parents do not claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes.
- Students solely demonstrate total self-sufficiency.
- Students do not reside with their parents.

