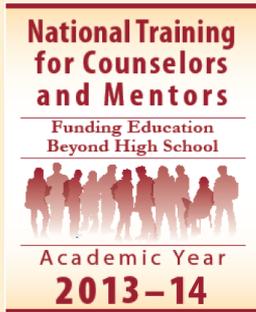


Student Dependency Status



Student Dependency Status

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What Makes a Student Independent?

- Born before 1/1/90 (for 2013–14 year)
- Married
- Graduate or professional student

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Student Dependency Status

What Makes a Student Independent?

- Active duty military for purposes other than training
- Veteran

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What Makes a Student Independent?

- Children
- Dependents other than children or spouse

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What Makes a Student Independent?

- Orphan, foster care, dependent/ward of the court
- Emancipated minor
- Legal guardianship

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Student Dependency Status

What Makes a Student Independent?

- Homeless or at risk of becoming homeless
 - As determined by agency specified in FAFSA instructions
 - Or by financial aid administrator

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Dependency Overrides

- Financial Aid Administrators have authority to change the filing status from dependent independent
- Student must present documentation of situation

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Dependency Overrides

- Special circumstances:
 - Abuse at home
 - Abandonment by parents
- NOT special circumstances:
 - Parents don't claim student on taxes
 - Student does not live with parents and supports self
 - Parents don't want to help pay for college
 - Parents refuse to provide information for FAFSA

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Student Dependency Status

Dependency Overrides

Documentation from third party:

- Teacher
- Social worker
- Member of clergy
- Court
- Law enforcement

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Completion of FAFSA Without Parental Information

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No Access to Parental Information

- FOTW asks whether student will provide parental data
- If no, student indicates he or she meets special circumstances criteria
- Student can submit FAFSA without parent information
- FAFSA will have reject code
 - Student needs to work with school to complete application

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Student Dependency Status

Parents Refuse to Provide Information

- Student indicates situation on FOTW, choosing option that he or she is applying only for an unsubsidized loan
- Student submits FAFSA without parental information
- EFC not calculated
- Student must contact school regarding documentation and decision

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Who Qualifies as a Parent for a Dependent Student?

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Who Is a Parent?

- Biological parents
- Adoptive parents
- Stepparents, if they are married to the student's biological or adoptive parent and the student is included in their household size

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Student Dependency Status

Who Is NOT a Parent?

- Foster parents
- Legal guardians who have not adopted the student
- Relatives who have not adopted the student
- Stepparents who have not adopted the student and who would be the only person providing parental information

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Case Study: Lisa

1. Lisa's parents are divorced. She lives with mom and only stays with dad a few weeks during the summer.
2. Lisa's dad makes more money than her mom.
3. Lisa now lives half time with dad, half time with mom.

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Case Study: Lisa

4. Lisa's mom remarries. Does stepdad's information go on her FAFSA?
5. Lisa's stepdad has his own kids. Should Lisa's leave his information off her FAFSA?

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Student Dependency Status

Case Study: Shawn

1. Shawn's mom passed away, and he doesn't get along with dad. Shawn lives with his older sister and her husband.
2. Shawn's dad is now incarcerated. Should Shawn take a paper FAFSA on a visit for information and a signature?

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Case Study: Carlos

1. Carlos lives with his grandmother to take pressure off his mom.
2. Carlos' grandmother has been named his legal guardian.

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Questions



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Student Dependency Status