

Change to Dependency Status

Dependent Students

Dependent Students must report their parent's income and assets as well as their own when applying for federal financial aid. The U.S. Department of Education automatically considers you dependent if you answer no to all of the following questions:

- Were you born before January 1, 1982?
- Will you be enrolled in a master's or doctorate program (beyond a bachelor's degree) at the beginning of the 2005-2006 school year?
- Were you married the day you filled out your FAFSA?
- Do you have children that you support financially with more than half of your income?
- Do you have dependents (other than your children or spouse) that you support financially with more than half of your income?
- Are both your parents deceased or are you (or were until age 18) a ward or dependent of the court?
- Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?

If you were able to answer yes to any of these questions you are considered independent.

Independent Students

Independent Students only report their own income and assets (and those of a spouse, if married) when applying for federal financial aid.

However, if you answered no to all of the questions above but have unusual circumstances, a dependency override may occur. Some examples of unusual circumstances are if a student's parent can not be located or if a student has been a victim of domestic violence and is no longer living with his or her parents as a result of this violent environment. If you believe you have an unusual circumstance please contact our office (662) 329-7114, or visit our office to speak with a Counselor to discuss your situation. If after meeting with your Counselor it is determined that a dependency override should be made, your counselor will then inform you what documentation will be necessary to process the override.
