Independent Status Confirmation

Overview

Your 2020-2021 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) indicates you are an independent student under the age of 24. Before the Office of Financial Aid can apply federal/state financial aid to your account, we must confirm that you meet the Department of Education’s definition of independent. Review the section below and submit your documentation to the Office of Financial Aid.

Acceptable Documentation

Please submit the documentation appropriate for your circumstance. The required documentation is listed under the applicable circumstance.

- **I am married**
  - Marriage License

- **I am on active duty with the US Armed Forces**
  - An original statement of service signed by, or by direction of, the adjutant, personnel officer, or commander of your unit or higher headquarters which identifies you and your social security number

- **I have (or will have) children or legal dependents I support**
  - Mortgage or Rental Agreement in your name
  - Signed 2018 and/or 2019 Tax Return (if taxes were filed)
  - Any additional documentation showing you are or will be the primary provider for your children or legal dependent(s)

- **I do not have any living parents and was not adopted before the age of 13**
  - Death Certificate for each parent
  - Your birth certificate

- **I was in the foster care system after the age of 13**
  - Official court documentation or statement from a county/private welfare agency showing you were in the foster care system

- **I was a ward of the court after the age of 13**
  - Official court documentation showing you were a ward of the court

- **I was an emancipated minor**
  - Official court documentation showing you were an emancipated minor

- **I was in legal guardianship**
  - Official court documentation showing you were in legal guardianship

- **I am an unaccompanied youth who is homeless or at risk of being homeless**
  - Letter from a district homeless liaison, the director of an emergency shelter, or the director of a runaway, homeless youth, or transitional living program
  - If you feel you qualify for this status but do not have any documentation, please contact the Office of Financial Aid to schedule a housing interview

If you are unable to obtain the documentation listed above, please contact the Office of Financial Aid.