

Dependent Status Determination and the FAFSA

Dependency for financial aid is significantly different than dependency for tax purposes. Below is a list of criteria to determine dependent status for the purposes of education. You are at least 24 years old on the day you file your FAFSA. From the perspective of the student, answer YES or NO to the following questions:

- You are or will be enrolled in a masters or Doctoral degree program at the beginning of the school year
- You are married on the day you file your FAFSA
- You are a parent
- You have dependents other than your spouse who live with you and who receive more than half their support from you at the time you apply
- Both your parents are deceased (or were until age 18) a ward of dependent of the court
- You are currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training
- You're a Veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces
- You were a foster child after the age of 13
- You are an emancipated child as determined by a court judge
- You are homeless or at risk of homelessness as determined by the director of a HUD approved homeless shelter, transitional program, or high school liaison

If you do not meet any of these criteria (you answered NO to all of the above questions), you are classified as a dependent student for [FAFSA](#) purposes. **Whether you believe you are independent or not does not change your dependency status under Federal regulations for the [FAFSA](#).**

For more information on the FAFSA and Federal regulations click [Here](#) for more information.