

WHAT'S YOUR FAFSA DEPENDENCY STATUS?

2026-27

Answer 'yes' or 'no' to these questions to determine if you'll need to provide your parents' information:

	YES	NO
1. Were you born before January 1, 2003?	_____	_____
2. On the day you submit your FAFSA, are you married?	_____	_____
3. At the beginning of the 2026-27 school year, will you be working on a master's or doctorate program (such as an M.A., M.B.A., M.D., J.D., Ph.D., Ed.D., etc.)?	_____	_____
4. Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training (If you are a National Guard or Reserves enlistee, are you on active duty for other than state or training purposes?)?	_____	_____
5. Are you a veteran of the U.S. armed forces?*	_____	_____
6. Do you have children or other people (excluding a spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you, now and between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027?	_____	_____
7. At any time since you turned age 13, were you an orphan (no living or adoptive biological parent), were you in foster care or were you a dependent or ward of the court?	_____	_____
8. As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, are you or were you a legally emancipated minor?	_____	_____
9. Does someone other than your parent or stepparent have legal guardianship of you, as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?	_____	_____
10. At any time on or after July 1, 2025, were you unaccompanied and either 1) homeless or 2) self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?	_____	_____

*Answer 'No' (you are not a veteran) if you (1) have never engaged in active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, (2) are currently an ROTC student or a cadet or midshipman at a service academy, (3) a National Guard or Reserves enlistee activated only for state or training purposes, or (4) were engaged in active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces but released under dishonorable conditions. Also answer 'No' if you are currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces and will continue to serve through June 30, 2026.

Answer 'Yes' (you are a veteran) if you (1) have engaged in active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard) or are a National Guard or Reserves enlistee who was called to active duty for other than state or training purposes, or were a cadet or midshipman at one of the service academies and (2) were released under a condition other than dishonorable. Also answer 'Yes' if you are not a veteran now but will be one by June 30, 2026.

- ▶ If you answered **YES** to one or more of these questions, you are considered an **INDEPENDENT STUDENT** on the FAFSA.
- ▶ You will **NOT** need to provide your parents' information when completing your FAFSA application.
- ▶ Contact the college or university you plan to attend for more information about your dependency status.

Applicants who indicate on their FAFSA form that they have unusual circumstances and are unable to contact a parent or that contact with a parent poses a risk to the student, will be granted provisional independent status. A student may be experiencing unusual circumstances if they:

- Left home due to an abusive or threatening environment;
- Are abandoned by or estranged from their parents;
- Have refugee or asylee status and are separated from their parents, or their parents are displaced in a foreign country;
- Are a victim of human trafficking;
- Are incarcerated, or their parents are incarcerated, and contact with the parents would pose a risk to the student; or
- Are otherwise unable to contact or locate their parents.



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