FAFSA DEPENDENCY STATUS INFORMATION

The Office of Student Financial Services
Please do NOT put any sensitive information in the Chat or Q&A. Any questions that contain personal information should be sent directly to sfs@temple.edu with your 9 digit TU ID.

This webinar will be recorded and available on our website, https://sfs.temple.edu/about/sfs-webinars, shortly after the presentation.

Question and Answer session after the presentation - please type your question into the Q&A feature.
AGENDA

- Who is considered an Independent student?
- What documentation can be submitted to confirm Independent status?
- What if a student has an extenuating circumstance where they cannot list parental information on the FAFSA?
- How to schedule time with SFS to discuss your situation.
- Questions?
What is Dependency Status?

- Your dependency status determines if parental information is required on the FAFSA application.
  - If you’re a dependent student, you will report your and your parents’ information.
  - If you’re an independent student, you will report your own information (and, if you’re married, your spouse’s).
Am I Dependent or Independent?

- Your answers to questions on the FAFSA determine whether you are considered a dependent or independent student.

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**Step Three (Student):** Answer the questions in this step to determine if you will need to provide parental information. Once you answer “Yes” to any of the questions in this step, skip Step Four and go to Step Five on page 8.

45. Were you born before January 1, 1998?
46. As of today, are you married? (Also answer “Yes” if you are separated but not divorced.)
47. At the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year, will you be working on a master’s or doctorate program (such as an MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD, graduate certificate, etc.)?
48. Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training? See Notes page 9.
50. Do you now have or will you have children who will receive more than half of their support from you between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022?
51. Do you have dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you, now and through June 30, 2022?
52. At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care or were you a dependent or ward of the court? See Notes page 10.
53. As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, are you or were you an emancipated minor? See Notes page 10.
54. Does someone other than your parent or stepparent have legal guardianship of you, as determined by a court in your state of legal residence? See Notes page 10.
55. At any time on or after July 1, 2020, did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless? See Notes page 10.
56. At any time on or after July 1, 2020, did the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless? See Notes page 10.
57. At any time on or after July 1, 2020, did the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless? See Notes page 10.
If you are able to answer “No” to the Independent questions….

You will need to provide parental information on the FAFSA application.

Who is Considered your Parent?

- **“Parent”** refers to a *biological or adoptive parent* or a person determined by the state to be a parent.
- The Parent that is listed your birth certificate.
- If your parents are separated, list your custodial parent. *This is the parent you live with the most and will continue to be with during the school year.*
- Grandparents, foster parents, legal guardians, older siblings, and uncles or aunts are *not considered parents* on this form unless they have legally adopted you.
- Parental Income and financial information will be required on that FAFSA.
If you are able to answer “Yes” to an Independent question….

- Certain questions will require you to provide supporting documentation supporting the status question answer, and
- A personal statement outlining the timeline of the situation. The personal statement should include:
  - Timeline of events
  - Names of all individuals mentioned in the personal statement (examples: parents, guardians, foster parents, etc...)
  - How student is currently financially supporting themselves, and
  - Where you currently live and with whom (if applicable)
- Certain Independent statuses will renew each academic year going forward after the initial review. This would include situations such as:
  - Independent by marriage
  - Independent by Veteran status
  - Independent by foster care, orphan, or legal guardianship
Confirmation of Independent Status

FAFSA question #50: Child for who you support 51% or more now and through June 30, 2022 & FAFSA Question #51: Dependents other than children

Statement:
Should outline monthly income and expenses to demonstrate that you are providing at least 51% of the child’s support

What’s Needed:
- Child/Dependent’s Birth certificate
- Paystubs to confirm monthly income
- Proof of receipt of WIC or other government assistance programs for mothers and children (TANF, SNAP/food stamps)
- Online bill payments by you for child’s support and/or self-support (i.e. utility bills)
- Proof of child’s health insurance provided by you (or Medicaid) or receipts for child’s medical care expenses paid by you
- Proof of living arrangements (i.e. lease, copies of paid rent checks, etc.)
- Documentation of child care
Confirmation of Independent Status

FAFSA Question #52: Orphan

Answer "Yes" if at any time since you turned age 13 you had no living parent (biological or adoptive), even if you are now adopted.

What’s needed:

- Death certificates/obituaries/newspaper death announcements for biological parents, court documentation, or
- Statement from your social worker/case worker regarding your orphaned status (if unable to obtain death certificates), or
- Corroborating statement from a professional familiar with your circumstance (therapist, high school guidance counselor) (if unable to obtain death certificates)
Confirmation of Independent Status

FAFSA Question #52: Ward of the Court:

Answer “Yes” if at any time since you turned age 13 you were a dependent or ward of the court, even if you are no longer a dependent or ward of the court today.

What's needed:

- Legal documentation; court order for ward/remand status
- Statement from your social worker/caseworker on official letterhead corroborating ward of the court claim.
Confirmation of Independent Status

FAFSA Question #52: Foster Care

Answer “Yes” if at any time since you turned age 13 you were in foster care, even if you are no longer in foster care today.

What's needed:

- Legal documentation: Court order
- Statement from your social worker/caseworker on official letterhead corroborating foster care claim after age 13, or
- Statement from placement facility on official letterhead corroborating foster care after age 13, or
- Corroborating statement from foster family.
PA Fostering Independence Tuition Waiver Program

- An eligible student’s remaining tuition and mandatory fees will be eliminated after all federal and state gift aid is applied.
- Must submit a FAFSA and a PA Chafee Education and Training Grant application.
  - Please also apply for state aid. Visit [pheaa.org/FosterEd](http://pheaa.org/FosterEd) for more information on the PA Chafee ETG application and how to apply for state aid.
- Student must enroll in an eligible PA postsecondary institution.
- May be applied for up to 5 years (consecutive or not), defined as 10 semesters or the equivalent for undergraduate study.

Other Requirements:

- Be a Pennsylvania resident
- Have not reached the age of 26 by July 1 of the upcoming academic year for which the FosterEd waiver is received.
- Have received a high school diploma or received a Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma
- Be eligible for services under Pennsylvania’s John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood
- Be identified as a youth who is or was in foster care, or was discharged from foster care on or after attaining age 16, OR has exited foster care on or after age 16 to adoption or permanent legal guardianship
- More requirements listed at [pheaa.org/FosterEd](http://pheaa.org/FosterEd).
Confirmation of Independent Status

FAFSA Question #53: Emancipated Minor

Students are independent if they are, or were upon reaching the age of majority, emancipated minors (released from control of their parent or guardian). Must be adjudicated by a court of competent jurisdiction in the state of the students’ legal residence at the time of the adjudication.

What’s needed:

- Legal documentation - emancipation order from a court in your state of legal residence

This status does not apply to students who are emancipated for purposes of child support.
FAFSA question #54: Legal Guardianship

What’s Needed:

- Custody orders will **not** satisfy the requirement
- Court documentation from your state of legal residence
  - Ex: PA students must have PA court documentation

Key Points

- Your legal guardian must be someone other than a parent
- Legal guardianship and custody are not the same - the documentation must state **guardianship**
- **Does not apply** if student is still a minor and the court decision is no longer in effect
- **Does not apply** if the court decision was not in effect at the time you became an adult
FAFSA Question #55 - 57:

55. At any time on or after July 1, 2020, did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?

56. At any time on or after July 1, 2020, did the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless? See

57. At any time on or after July 1, 2020, did the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?

“Homeless” means lacking fixed, regular and adequate housing. You may be homeless if you are living in shelters, parks, motels or cars, or are temporarily living with other people because you have nowhere else to go. Also, if you are living in any of these situations and fleeing an abusive parent you may be considered homeless even if your parent would provide support and a place to live.

“Unaccompanied” means you are not living in the physical custody of your parent or guardian.

“Youth” means you are 21 years of age or younger or you are still enrolled in high school as of the day you sign this application.
Confirmation of Independent Status

Homeless Youth

- You are an unaccompanied youth who was homeless (or at risk of homelessness).
- McKinney-Vento Act
  - This determination can be made by: a school district homeless liaison, the director (or designee) of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, or the director (or designee) of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program.

What’s needed:

- Corroborating statement from a high school or school district homeless liaison on official letterhead, or
- Corroborating statement from the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on official letterhead, or
- Corroborating statement from the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program on official letterhead
Based on your answers to the dependency status questions, you are considered a dependent student. This means you must provide parental information. Select “I will provide information about my parent(s)” and click Next to continue filling out your FAFSA.

If you have a special circumstance and are unable to provide parental information, under very limited circumstances, you may be able to submit your FAFSA without parental information. Select “I am unable to provide information about my parent(s)” and click Next to get additional information.
If you continue to complete the application without providing parent information:

- we will **not** transfer any parent information from your last year's application into this year's FAFSA® form;
- we will **not** calculate your Expected Family Contribution (EFC), which colleges use to determine your financial aid package;
- you may be limited in the types of federal student aid that you are eligible to receive; and
- in order to find out how much student aid you are eligible to receive, you must follow up with the financial aid administrator at the college you plan to attend.
Extenuating Circumstances for Dependency Status

**Special Circumstances Qualifications**

**Student Information**

You may still be eligible for some type of federal student aid without providing parent information. Please read through the following options carefully.

**Special Circumstances Option**

You must contact the financial aid administrator at the college you plan to attend if you believe that you have a special circumstance that should be considered in determining your eligibility for federal student aid. However, not all situations are considered a special circumstance. For example, the following situations would **not** be considered as a special circumstance on their own:

- You do not live with your parents.
- Your parents don’t provide you with financial support.
- Your parents refuse to contribute to your college expenses.
- Your parents don’t claim you as a dependent on their income tax return.
- Your parents do not want to provide their information on your FAFSA.

**Unsubsidized Loan Option**

If you do not meet a requirement for a special circumstance and still choose to continue your application without providing parent information, you will only be considered for an Unsubsidized Loan. To request consideration for an Unsubsidized Loan, you must contact the financial aid administrator at the college you plan to attend.

Choose the appropriate option below based on your circumstances.

- ☐ I will provide information about my parent(s)
- ☒ I have a special circumstance and am unable to provide information about my parent(s)
- ☐ I do not have a special circumstance, and am submitting my FAFSA without parent information to apply for an unsubsidized loan only
How to Request An Extenuating Circumstances Appeal If You Not Considered An Independent Student

- SFS recommends that you set up a time to speak with a member of our Dependency Appeal Committee to discuss your situation.

- Email sfs@temple.edu with the subject line “Extenuating Circumstances Appeal” to setup an appointment with a committee member. A member of the Dependency Appeal Committee will follow up with you.

- Once you meet with a committee member, depending on the situation, you may be asked to submit additional documentation through the Temple Dashboard to support your appeal.
Examples of Extenuating Circumstances (with appropriate documentation):

- Voluntary/Involuntary removal from the parents’ home due to an abusive situation that threatens the student’s mental or physical health.
- Incarceration of both parents.
- Incarceration or Death of the custodial parent and the whereabouts of the non-custodial parent are unknown.
- Whereabouts of both parents are unknown and another person has legal custody of the student.

Circumstances that do not qualify for an Extenuating Circumstance Appeal:

- Parent(s) refuse to contribute to the student’s education.
- Parent(s) are unwilling to provide information on the FAFSA or documents for the Verification process.
- Parent(s) do not claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes.
- Parent(s) live overseas.
- The student is self-sufficient.
Extenuating Circumstances Appeal - Documentation Requested

- A signed, typed personal statement summarizing the current extenuating circumstances that prevent you from including parental information on the FAFSA. The statement **must include** the names of both biological parents, relevant dates of contact and all other important details of your situation that will support the appeal.

- Third Party documentation (someone outside of the family) - signed, typed statement from at least one person outside of your family that has knowledge of your extenuating circumstances. All statements must be uploaded on official letterhead with a signature, contact information and date
  - Acceptable third parties include, but are not limited to the following:
    - Counselors or Teachers
    - Clergy or Community Groups
    - Government Agencies
    - Medical Personnel
    - Courts or Prison Administrators

- All other documentation that supports your extenuating circumstance. Please note, the Office of Student Financial Services may request other documentation that is specific to your situation.
How Do Students Submit Documentation to SFS?

STUDENT ACCOUNT

DISCLAIMER
Estimated tuition and fees are updated annually each summer. Some or all instruction for all or part of the academic year may be delivered remotely. Tuition, the University Services Fee and certain other fees are set regardless of the method of instruction and will not be refunded in the event instruction occurs remotely for any part of the academic year.

YOUR CURRENT BALANCE
$0.00
You do NOT owe a balance at this time.

TUPAY
View your student account (including current balance and due dates), make a payment by e-check or credit card, authorize a payer, sign-up for direct deposit for student refunds and check your refund status.

PRINTABLE STUDENT ACCOUNT STATEMENT
Select term and transaction type(s) below to print an official Temple University student account statement to provide to an employer, state agency, etc.

Term | 2020 Spring
Transaction Type(s) | Charges

STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES

FINANCIAL-AID REQUIREMENTS
Need to Submit / Resubmit
You have 3 requirement(s) that have not been submitted or have been deemed incomplete.

Satisfied
You have satisfied 1 requirement(s).

SELF SERVICE BANNER
Financial Aid Package
College Financing Plan

Need Help?

Extenuating Circumstance Appeal For Dependency Status

- Appeals are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
  - If your appeal is approved, you will be selected for verification. Please make sure to submit any tax documentation and forms to complete this process.
  - If approved, it is important to note that the financial aid offer will likely not be enough funding to cover the cost to attend Temple University. It is very possible that additional funding will be needed to assist with the outstanding balance.
  - For information on the cost to attend, see the Temple University tuition calculator to prepare an estimated budget, [https://bursar.temple.edu/tuition-and-fees/tuition-rates](https://bursar.temple.edu/tuition-and-fees/tuition-rates).
- Extenuating Circumstance Appeals for Dependency Status do not automatically renew year-to-year.
  - Students are required to request a new appeal each academic year.
- Submit the FAFSA for each upcoming academic year by Temple University Priority deadline: February 1st
QUESTIONS?

Contact SFS

- Email: sfs@temple.edu
- Please include your 9 digit TU ID on any email correspondence.
- We utilize a ticketing system when you contact us and will create a ticket at the time of your call or email. We will then have a professional staff member get back in touch.

Join our virtual line:

- QLESS
  - Download the QLESS app.
  - Available on both iPhone and Android devices.
  - Enter through the link listed on https://sfs.temple.edu/about/appointments.
- Family Education Rights and Protection Act Waiver
  - In order to provide a waiver of FERPA rights to a specific person, students should follow instructions listed on https://sfs.temple.edu/policies/family-education-al-rights-and-privacy-act.