



FAFSA

DEPENDENCY

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DEPENDENT

Dependent students report information about themselves and their legal (*biological or adoptive*) parents on the FAFSA

~*Dependent students will answer "NO" to all of the questions below*~

vs.

INDEPENDENT

Independent students only report information about themselves; if married, they also report information about their spouse on the FAFSA

~*Independent students will answer "YES" to at least one of the questions below*~

Q1

Were you born before January 1, 2004?

As of today, are you married or remarried?
(Answer "No" if you are separated but not divorced)

Q2

Q3

At the beginning of the 2027-28 school year, will you be enrolled in a master's or doctorate program (*such as an M.A., MBA, M.D., J.D., Ph.D., Ed.D., graduate certificate, etc.*)?

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?*)

Q4

Q5

Are you a veteran of the U.S. armed forces?

Do you have children or other people (*excluding your spouse*) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you now and between July 1, 2027, and June 30, 2028?

Q6

Q7

At any time since you turned age 13, were you an orphan (*no living biological or adoptive parent*)?

At any time since you turned age 13, were you a ward of the court?

Q8

Q9

At any time since you turned age 13, were you in foster care?

Are you or were you a legally emancipated minor, as determined by a court in your state of residence?

Q10

Q11

Are you or were you in a legal guardianship with someone other than your parent or stepparent, as determined by a court in your state of residence?

At any point in 2026 or later, were you not living with your parent or guardian, and were you either (1) homeless or (2) self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?

Q12

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