

Are You Dependent or Independent?

Most students entering college or a career school straight from high school are considered dependent students. If you are considered dependent, your parents' income and assets as well as your own must be reported on the FAFSA.

For the 2005–06 award year, this information will be considered when your eligibility is determined. If you're independent, you'll report only your own income and assets (and those of your spouse, if you are married).

Answer TRUE to one of the following statements and you are considered Independent.	True	False
1. You were born before January 1, 1982;		
2. You are married;		
3. You are or will be enrolled in a master's or doctoral program (beyond a bachelor's degree) during the 2005–06 school year;		
4. You have children who receive more than half their support from you;		
5. You have dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half their support from you and will continue to receive more than half their support from you through June 30, 2005;		
6. You are an orphan or ward of the court (or were a ward of the court until age 18); or		
7. You are a veteran of the US Armed Forces ("veteran" includes students who attended a US service academy and were released under a condition other than dishonorable).		

Special Circumstances:

In special or unusual circumstances, the financial aid administrator (FAA) can change your dependency status, if they think circumstances warrant it based on documentation you provide.

Note:

A parent's refusal to provide financial assistance or the required FAFSA information is not a valid reason for such a determination.