

Applications Opening Date: October 1, 2020

1. Apply for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):
 - a. Application website: <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>
2. Apply for the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA)
 - a. Application website:
<https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/SAPHome/SAPHome?url=home>
3. Apply for Private Scholarships:
 - a. High Schools, Districts, Private Organizations, Post-secondary Institutions.

Reference Materials:

1. Determining Student's dependency status for FAFSA:
 - a. Attachment Page 2-3, website: <https://studentaid.gov/sites/default/files/fafsa-dependency.pdf> or
<https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out/dependency#dependent-or-independent>
2. Determining Who is a Parents for FAFSA:
 - a. Attachment Page 4-6, website: <https://studentaid.gov/sites/default/files/who-is-my-parent.png>

Financial Aid Awards-Nonfictions/Disbursements:

1. Each Individual Post-Secondary Institution will have their own distinctive:
 - a. Priority Date for a completed FAFSA/Financial Aid Applications
 - b. Financial Aid award notification process
 - c. Financial Aid distribution process

Special Notations:

1. Determining Students Florida Residency requirements:
 - a. Florida resident status are determined by the student's postsecondary institution.
2. Ultimate responsibility belongs with the student for every required application, request for additional documentation and meeting applicable deadlines.

Dependency Status Questions on the 2021–22 FAFSA® Form

1. Were you born before Jan. 1, 1998?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
2. As of today, are you married? (Also answer “Yes” if you are separated but not divorced.)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
3. At the beginning of the 2021–22 school year, will you be working on a master’s or doctorate program (such as an M.A., MBA, M.D., J.D., Ph.D., Ed.D., graduate certificate, etc.)?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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?)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Are you a veteran of the U.S. armed forces?*	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
6. 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 [during the award year]?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
7. 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?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
8. 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?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
9. Has it been determined by a court in your state of legal residence that you are an emancipated minor or that someone other than your parent or stepparent has legal guardianship of you? (You also should answer “Yes” if you are now an adult but were in legal guardianship or were an emancipated minor immediately before you reached the age of being an adult in your state. Answer “No” if the court papers say “custody” rather than “guardianship.”)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
10. At any time on or after July 1, 2020, were you determined to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless, as determined by (a) your high school or district homeless liaison, (b) the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, or (c) the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program?*	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

*Answer “No” (you are not a veteran) if you (1) have never engaged in active duty (including basic training) in the U.S. armed forces, (2) are currently a Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) student or a cadet or midshipman at a service academy, (3) are 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, 2022.

*Answer “Yes” (you are a veteran) if you (1) have engaged in active duty (including basic training) in the U.S. armed forces 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, 2022.

***If you do not have a determination that you are homeless, but you believe you are an unaccompanied youth who is homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless, answer "No" to the FAFSA questions concerning being homeless. Then contact your [financial aid office](#) to explain your situation. "Homeless" means lacking fixed or regular housing. You may be homeless if you are living in shelters, parks, motels, hotels, cars, or temporarily living with someone else because you have nowhere else to go.*

What if I answered "Yes" to one or more of the questions above?

If so, then for [federal student aid](#) purposes, you're considered to be an independent student and will not provide information about your parents on the [FAFSA form](#).

What if I answered "No" to every question?

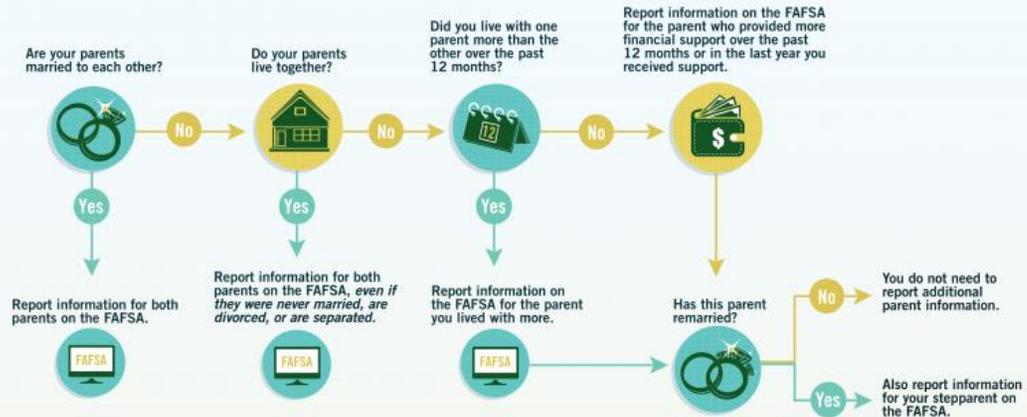
If so, then for federal student aid purposes, you're considered to be a dependent student, and you must provide information about your parents on the FAFSA form.

Not living with parents or not being claimed by them on tax forms does not make you an independent student for purposes of applying for federal student aid.

WHO'S MY PARENT WHEN I FILL OUT MY FAFSA®?

Dependent students are required to report parent information on the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)*. For reporting purposes, "PARENT" means your legal (biological or adoptive) parent or stepparent, or a person that the state has determined to be your legal parent.

Use this guide to figure out which parent's information to include (depending on your family situation).



The following people are not your parents unless they have legally adopted you:



Widowed Stepparent



Grandparents



Foster Parents



Legal Guardians



Older Brothers or Sisters



Aunts or Uncles

If you're not sure whom to report as a parent, you can visit StudentAid.ed.gov/fafsa/filing-out/parent-info or call 800-4-FED-AID (800-433-3243).

If you're not sure whether you are a dependent student, go to StudentAid.gov/fafsa/filing-out/dependency

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Who is my parent according to the FAFSA® form?

If you need to report parent information, here are some guidelines to help you:

- If your legal parents (your biological and/or adoptive parents, or parents as determined by the state [e.g., a parent listed on your birth certificate]) are married to each other, answer the questions about both of them, regardless of whether your parents are of the same or opposite sex.
- If your legal parents are not married to each other and live together, answer the questions about both of them, regardless of whether your parents are of the same or opposite sex.
- If your legal parent is widowed or was never married, answer the questions about that parent.

What if my parents are divorced or separated?

In this case, how you fill out the [FAFSA form](#) depends on whether your parents live together or not.

Keep the following in mind as you read this section:

- For FAFSA purposes, your married parents are separated if they are considered legally separated by a state, or if they are legally married but have chosen to live separate lives, including living in separate households, as though they were not married.
- When two married persons live as a married couple but are separated by physical distance (or have separate households), they are considered married for FAFSA purposes.

Divorced or Separated Parents Who Do Not Live Together

If your parents are divorced or separated and don't live together, answer the questions about the parent with whom you lived more during the past 12 months.

If you lived the same amount of time with each divorced or separated parent, give answers about the parent who provided more financial support during the past 12 months or during the most recent 12 months that you actually received support from a parent.

Divorced or Separated Parents Who Live Together

If your **divorced** parents live together, you'll indicate their marital status as "Unmarried and both legal parents living together," and you will answer questions about both of them on the FAFSA form.

If your **separated** parents live together, you'll indicate their marital status as "Married or remarried" (NOT "Divorced or separated"), and you will answer questions about both of them on the FAFSA form.

What if I have a stepparent?

If you have a stepparent who is married to the legal parent whose information you're reporting, you must provide information about that stepparent as well.

EXCEPTION: The FAFSA form asks about your parents' education level. For these two questions, your parents are considered to be your birth parents or adoptive parents—your stepparent is not your parent in these questions.

Including your stepparent's information on the FAFSA form helps create an accurate picture of your family's total financial strength.

What if my stepparent is widowed?

If your stepparent was married to your parent but is now widowed, that stepparent doesn't count as a parent on your FAFSA form unless he or she has legally adopted you.

What if my parents are in a same-sex marriage?

Same-sex couples must report their marital status as married if they were legally married in a state or other jurisdiction (foreign country), without regard to where they live or where the student will be going to school.