

Financial Aid FAQ's

- 1. *My parents are divorced or separated. Which parent completes the FAFSA?***
Generally a student would use the parent with whom they lived with more in the past year.
- 2. *My parent is remarried. Does my stepparent have to provide his/her income on my financial statement even if he/she is not legally obligated to help with my school?***
YES. In remarriage situations, both parent and step-parent incomes must be reported for financial aid purposes.
- 3. *My parents will not help me finance my education. Can I file as an independent student for financial aid?***
Lack of parental assistance alone does not make a student classified as independent. There are Federal guidelines that specifically indicate what defines a student as independent. To learn more, search for more information on the federal student aid website found at www.studentaid.gov and search 'dependent or independent'.
- 4. *Will my family be required to turn in any forms besides the FAFSA?***
Potentially. You may be required to submit verification documents such as a verification worksheet and/or IRS Tax Return Transcripts. Your college will notify you if additional paperwork is needed.
- 5. *How is financial aid paid to students?***
Financial aid monies are applied directly to the student's college tuition bill.
- 6. *My income in 2019 is quite a bit higher than my income in 2020, am I able to use my 2020 taxes for the 2021-2022 FAFSA?***
No, you will need to use your 2019 taxes when completing the 2021-2022 FAFSA application. You will then have the ability to work directly with the college/university you plan to attend to provide information/documentation about the difference in income. This process is referred to as professional judgment and is done on a case by case situation with the college/university's financial aid office.
- 7. *Do I have to reapply for financial aid every year?***
Yes, you will need to file for financial aid yearly. The FAFSA application is applicable for the academic school year. For example, the 2021-2022 FAFSA will apply for the following semesters: Fall 2021 (September-December), Winter/Spring 2022 (January-April/May), Spring/Summer 2022 (May-August).