

# Dependent Versus Independent Status

## Dependent vs. Independent Status for 2014/2015 FAFSA

If you are considered an Independent Student, only your information (and your spouse's, if you are married) is used to calculate the expected family contribution. If you are a Dependent Student, your parents' income information is also used.

You are considered an **Independent Student** if any one of the following applies to you: (if none of these statements apply to you, you are considered a **Dependent student**)

- 1 You are or will be at least 24 years old as of December 31, 2011 (born before January 1, 1988), or
- 2 You are married, or
- 3 You have legal dependents of your own, or
- 4 You are a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces, having served on active duty, or
- 5 You are a ward of the court or both of your parents are deceased.
- 6 You are considered a Dependent Student and must supply information about your parents on your FAFSA if none of the conditions above apply to you.

### Overriding Dependency Status

It may be possible to have your dependency status officially changed by the Financial Aid Officer by filing a petition with the financial aid office. There must be extenuating circumstances (such as a family situation involving abuse or other adverse circumstances) involved which are documented by a professional familiar with the situation in order to be considered.

[Dependency Override Form for 2012- 2013](#)

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