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:

- Foster Parents
- Legal Guardians
- Older Brothers or Sisters
- Aunts or Uncles
- Grandparents
- Stepparent

If you’re not sure whom to report as a parent, you can visit StudentAid.ed.gov/FAFSA/filling-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/filling-out/dependency

Federal Student Aid
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Do I Have to Provide My Parents' Information on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)?

All applicants for federal student aid are considered either “independent” or “dependent.” Dependent students are required to include information about their parents on the FAFSA. By answering a few questions, you can get a good idea of which category you fit into.

1. Will you be 24 or older by Dec. 31 of the school year for which you are applying for financial aid?
   - Yes
   - No

2. Will you be working toward a master’s or doctorate degree (such as M.A., M.B.A., M.D., J.D., Ph.D., Ed.D., etc.)?
   - Yes
   - No

3. Are you married or separated but not divorced?
   - Yes
   - No

4. Do you have children who receive more than half of their support from you?
   - Yes
   - No

5. Do you have dependents (other than children or a spouse) who live with you and receive more than half of their support from you?
   - Yes
   - No

6. At any time since you turned age 13, were both of your parents deceased, were you in foster care, or were you a ward or dependent of the court?
   - Yes
   - No

7. Are you an emancipated minor or are you in a legal guardianship as determined by a court?
   - Yes
   - No

8. Are you an unaccompanied youth who is homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?
   - Yes
   - No

9. Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces for purposes other than training?
   - Yes
   - No

10. Are you a veteran of the U.S. armed forces?
    - Yes
    - No

You may be a Dependent Student

If none of the criteria listed above apply to you, you may be considered a dependent student and may be required to provide your parents’ financial information when completing the FAFSA.

You may be an Independent Student

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you may be an independent student. You may not be required to provide parental information on your FAFSA.

If you have questions about your dependency status or need more information, please visit StudentAid.gov/dependency.