

Am I Dependent or Independent?

Students are either dependent or independent.

- *If dependent, use parental information and student information.*
- *If independent, use only student information.*

If you answer YES to any question, you are independent.

- Are you 24?
- As of today, are you married? (Also answer "Yes" if you are separated but not divorced.)
- At the beginning of the 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.)?
- 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?)
- Are you a veteran of the U.S. armed forces?
- Do you now have—or will you have—children who will receive more than half of their support from you during the academic year for which you are applying for aid?
- 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 the end of the academic year for which you are applying for aid?
- 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?
- 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.")
- Are you considered to be an unaccompanied youth who is homeless or 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?