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
      - 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.
      - If you have questions about your dependency status or need more information, please visit StudentAid.gov/dependency.
    - No
      - 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.

StudentAid.gov