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**

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**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.

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**You may be an Independent Student**

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

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

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StudentAid.gov

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