

# Do I have to provide my parents' information on my financial aid form?

All applicants for financial aid are considered either *independent* or *dependent*.

## Independent Student

If you answer **YES** to any of these questions, then you may be independent and not required to provide parental info on your form.

## Dependent Student

If you answer **NO** to all of these questions, then you are considered a dependent and required to provide your parental financial info.

- 1** Will you be 24 or older by January 1 of the school year for which you are applying for financial aid?
- 2** Are you married, or separated but not divorced?
- 3** Will you be working toward a master's or doctorate degree (e.g., MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD)?
- 4** Do you have children who receive more than half of their support from you?
- 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?
- 6** Are you currently serving on active duty in the US armed forces for purposes other than training?
- 7** Are you a veteran of the US armed forces?
- 8** At any time since you turned 13, were both of your parents deceased, were you in foster care, or were you a ward or a dependent of the court?
- 9** Are you an emancipated minor or are you in a legal guardianship as determined by a court?
- 10** Are you an unaccompanied youth who is homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?

If a student doesn't answer *yes* to any of the questions above, they're still considered a dependent student for purposes of applying for financial aid, even if they don't live with their parents, are not claimed by their parents on their tax forms, or are paying for their own bills and educational expenses.

For more information, visit Federal Student Aid's [Dependency page](#).