Instructions

Your answers to questions on the FAFSA determine whether you are considered a dependent or independent student. If you cannot document that you meet at least one of the dependency statuses on this form, or believe you made an error when completing the FAFSA, you must correct your FAFSA.

Answering “No” to every question in Step Three on the FAFSA will result in the determination that you are a dependent student which will require you to provide parent information on the FAFSA.

Required Documentation

Check the line(s) below which apply to you and submit all required documentation to verify your independent status.

1. I answered “Yes” to one or more of the dependency questions on my FAFSA in error. I have made the necessary corrections and resubmitted my FAFSA.

2. I am currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, or National Guard or Reserves enlistee, on active duty for other than state or training purposes.

Required Documentation:
Submit a copy of your official Active Duty military orders.
If you are not on active duty OR you are a not a National Guard or Reserve enlistee who is on active duty for other than state or training purposes, go to fafsa.ed.gov to make the necessary corrections. Refer to the Dependency Status section to correct this error.

3. I have or will have a child who receives more than half of their financial support from me and, if married, my spouse.

Required Documentation:
Submit a copy of your child/children’s official birth certificate(s). Attach a letter explaining and detailing the support provided. Examples of support include: paid day care, medical insurance, bills. If you do not have documented proof of your dependent(s), go to fafsa.ed.gov to make the necessary corrections. Refer to the Dependency Status section to correct this error.

4. I currently have dependents other than my children or spouse who live with me and who receive more than half of their financial support from me, now and through June 30, 2020.

Required Documentation:
Submit documents to substantiate your claim of support for these individuals. Examples of acceptable documentation include a copy of your Federal Tax Return Transcript claiming these individuals as dependents, any official legal/court documentation, or other documentation pertinent to proving your claim. If you do not have documented proof of your dependent(s), go to fafsa.ed.gov to make the necessary corrections. Refer to the Dependency Status section to correct this error.
**Required Documentation**

5. When I was age 13 or older, both of my parents were deceased or I was in foster care or a dependent/orphan/ward of the court.

**Required Documentation:**
Submit a copy of both parents' official death certificates. Explain where you lived and how you supported yourself following your parents' deaths. Attach a copy of the official court order, stating your official dependent/orphan/ward of the court status.

If you do not have documented proof of your parents' death, or dependent/orphan/ward of the court status, go to [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov) to make the necessary corrections. Refer to the Dependency Status section to correct this error.

6. I am currently an emancipated minor as determined by a court in my state of legal residence.

**Required Documentation:**
Submit a copy of the court document stating your official emancipated minor status.
**NOTE:** In New York State, there is no Emancipation Statue or court proceeding in which an Order of Emancipation can be obtained.

If you do not have emancipated minor status, go to [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov) to make the necessary corrections. Refer to the Dependency Status section to correct this error.

7. I am currently/was in legal guardianship as determined by a court in my state of legal residence before I became an adult. *Custody is not the same condition as guardianship.*

**Required Documentation:**
Submit a copy of the official court document stating your legal guardianship status.

If you do not have legal guardianship status, go to [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov) to make the necessary corrections. Refer to the Dependency Status section to correct this error.

**Certification and Signature**

I certify that all information provided in this document is true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I further understand that any false statement or misrepresentation will be cause for denial, reduction, withdrawal, and/or repayment of financial aid. Also, purposely giving false or misleading information on this worksheet may lead to fines, jail sentences, or both. I authorize the University at Buffalo to make any change(s) necessary as a result of the updated information that I have provided.

Student Signature: ___________________________________________ Date: __________________