



A Great Place To **Start**™

A Member of the Alabama Community College System

Office of Financial Aid FAFSA Dependency Am I Dependent or Independent?

FAFSA Dependency

Determining if you are dependent or independent for FAFSA purposes.

Students are either dependent or independent for FAFSA purposes:

- **If dependent, they must use parental information and student information.**
- **If independent, only the student's information will be used.**

Questions from the FAFSA – answer YES to one and you are independent – documentation may be required to validate the yes answer.

- Were you born before January 1, 1997?
- As of today, are you married? (also yes, if you are separated, but not divorced)
- At the beginning of the 2019/2020 school year, will you be working on a master's or doctorate program (MA, MBS, MD, JD, PhD, EdD, etc. – no longer Pell eligible)
- Are you currently serving on active duty in the US Armed Forces for purposes other than training?
- Are you a veteran of the US Armed Forces?
- Do you now have or will you have children who will receive more than half of their support from you between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021? Not solely paying child support?
- 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 June 30, 2021?
- At any time since you turned age 13, were both of your parent's deceased, were you in foster care or were you a dependent or ward of the court?
- As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, are you or were you an emancipated minor?
- Does someone other than your parent or step-parent have legal guardianship of you, as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?
- At any time on or after July 1, 2019, did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?
- At any time on or after July 1, 2019, did the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?
- At any time on or after July 1, 2019, did the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?

If the student answered NO to every question, then they are dependent and required to use parent information.
PARENT is not grandmother, not aunt, not a legal guardian.