Who Is Independent for Financial Aid?

Per Federal Regulation to be considered an Independent student for financial aid you must:

1. Be **Born** before January 1, 2001.

2. Be **Married** as of the day the FAFSA application was signed.

3. Be a **Graduate Student** at the beginning or during the 2024-2025 school year.

4. Be currently serving on **Active Duty** in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training.

5. Be a **Veteran** of the U.S. Armed Forces. (Dishonorable Discharge is not acceptable.)

6. Have a **Child or Children** who receive more than half their support from the student between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025.

7. Have **Dependents**, other than a child, who receives more than half their support from the student now through June 30, 2025.

8. Be an **Orphan** or after age 13 a **Ward of the Court** or in **Foster Care.**

9. Be an **Emancipated Minor** as determined by a court in the student's state of legal residence.

10. Be in **Legal Guardianship** as determined by a court in the student's state of legal residence.

11. Be determined an **Unaccompanied Homeless Youth** by the student's **High School** or school district on or after July 1, 2023.

12. Be determined an **Unaccompanied Homeless Youth** by the director of an emergency shelter program funded by the **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development** (**HUD**) on or after July 1, 2023.

13. Be determined an **Unaccompanied Homeless Youth** who was homeless or self-supporting and At Risk of being homeless by the director of a Runaway or **Homeless Youth Basic Center or Transitional Living Program** on or after July 1, 2023.

If the student does not meet any of these criteria, then a new FAFSA application must be submitted with all responsible parent(s) data listed. If a student believes they have an extenuating circumstance to be considered independent, please contact the UF OneStop at onestop.em.ufl.edu/connect.