

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 are you separated but not divorced?
- 3 Will you be working toward a master's or doctorate degree (e.g., MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, or EdD)?
- 4 Are you currently serving on active duty in the US Armed Forces for purposes other than training?
- 5 Are you a veteran of the US Armed Forces?
- 6 Do you have children or other people (excluding your spouse) who live with you and receive more than half of their support from you?
- 7 At any time since you turned 13, were you an orphan (no living biological or adoptive parent)?
- 8 At any time since you were 13, were you a ward of the court?
- 9 At any time since you turned 13, were you in foster care?
- 10 Are you or were you a legally emancipated minor as determined by a court in your state of residence?
- 11 Are you or were you in a legal guardianship with someone other than your parent or stepparent, as determined by a court in your state of residence?
- 12 At any point during this year or later, were you not living with your parent or guardian, and were you either (1) homeless or (2) 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.