

# Student Status – Dependent or Independent

Students are classified as dependent or independent because federal student aid programs are based on the idea that students' parents have the primary responsibility of paying for their children's education. Students who have access to parental support should not receive federal funds at the expense of students who do not have that access.

If you think you may have unusual circumstances that would make you independent, even though you normally would be considered a dependent, talk to your Financial Aid Officer. Also, if you and your family have other unusual circumstances, such as unusually high medical or dental expenses not covered by insurance, a family member who is a dislocated worker, or other unusual circumstances that might affect your eligibility for financial aid, check with the Financial Aid Administrator before filing your application.

