Professional Judgement Expected Family Contribution (EFC) Recalculations Appeal

Appeal Overview

The FAFSA uses your family’s annual income from almost two years ago to project how much your family can afford to contribute to your expenses while you attend college. This projection is based on the assumption that family income is usually stable over the course of time. While the FAFSA form does not give the student the opportunity to explain a circumstance that could affect his or her ability to pay for college; federal law allows authorized officials in our office to make certain adjustments to your income data so that it accurately reflects your family’s situation. These types of adjustments are made in accordance with our Professional Judgment Policy on a case-by-case basis.

If your family has experienced one or more of the following situations, you may qualify for an adjustment to the information on your FAFSA. Making these types of adjustments may result in increased financial aid eligibility.

- Loss of income due to unemployment or retirement
- Short-term or Permanent Disability
- One-time occurrence of income such as an inheritance, lottery win, or IRA withdrawal
- Divorce or separation that occurred after that FAFSA was filed
- Death of a parent or spouse that occurred after the FAFSA was filed

Appeal Guidelines

You must clearly demonstrate a change in the family’s financial situation occurred either during the tax year used on the FAFSA or later. Our office will use the information provided to determine if your appeal could make an impact to your financial aid award. Submission of this appeal does not guarantee an increase in aid. If you have incorrectly reported information on your FAFSA application, this review could negatively impact your EFC resulting in a loss/reduction of your current financial aid. Please review the information on your FAFSA application for accuracy before submitting an appeal. If the student’s FAFSA is selected for federal verification, that process must be completed before this appeal can be considered.
Professional Judgement Dependency Override Appeal

Appeal Overview

The Dependency Override Appeal is for dependent students who do not meet the federal criteria for “independent” status as outlined on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) but who would like to have their unique circumstances reviewed in order to be considered an independent student for financial aid purposes.

If you (the student) has experienced one or more of the following situations, you may qualify for “independent” status. Making these types of adjustments may result in increased financial aid eligibility.

- You are older than 21 but not 24 and unaccompanied and either homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless
- You do not know where your parents are and you are unable to contact them
- Abandonment by parent(s)
- You left home due to an abusive family environment
- Your parents are incarcerated

Appeal Guidelines

We understand that this type of appeal can feel intrusive. We want you to know that we take every precaution to protect your privacy and to ease the burden of having to go through this process. To that end, we offer a unique appeal process for dependency status overrides. The first time you appeal, you will build your case with supporting documentation. Once that appeal is approved, in subsequent years, you will only need to update us on your living situation and status of relationship with each of your parents via your personal statement. Submission of this appeal does not guarantee an increase in aid. If the student’s FAFSA is selected for federal verification, that process must be completed before this appeal can be considered.

What happens next?

We will review the information you submitted. If we need additional information, the request will be posted in the online system and you will receive an email and/or text notifying you of the status. Once we have everything necessary, we will make appropriate adjustments to data on your FAFSA. You will receive an email from the FAFSA processing center when we do this. PLEASE do not make any changes to this data. Doing so will cause major delays in your aid processing. Once we receive
the adjusted FAFSA processing results, we will adjust your financial aid package. You will receive an email to review and accept your financial aid on your self-service portal.

**How Long Will This Take?**

The online system improves our current process and we expect to be able to respond to your requests much more quickly. That said, the actual adjustment of income data, reprocessing of the FAFSA, and subsequent adjusting of aid can take a few weeks. The key to speeding up this process is to watch for status updates, check your email, and respond quickly to requests for additional information.

**Ready to submit your appeal?**

Go to [https://desu.verifymyfafsa.com/](https://desu.verifymyfafsa.com/). You will be prompted to login with your Delaware state University network credentials. If you are a first-time user, you must create an account. *If you are an incoming first-year student and do not have Delaware State University network credentials, you must first accept your admission offer.*

Once in the system, click on “Request” at the top, right corner of the page then select "Family Contribution Appeal" or “Dependency Override Appeal”. Appeals are available for the 2022-2023 academic year.