

## 2024-25 Dependency Questions

If you would answer “yes” to any of these questions, you are an **independent** student. If you would answer “no” to all these questions, you are a **dependent** student.

Were you born before Jan. 1, 2001?

As of today, are you married? (Answer “No” if you are separated but not divorced.)

At the beginning of the 2024–25 school year, will you be working on a master’s or doctorate program (such as an M.A., MBA, M.D., J.D., Ph.D., Ed.D., graduate certificate, etc.)?

Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces for purposes other than training? (If you are a National Guard or Reserves enlistee, are you on active duty for other than state or training purposes?)

Are you a veteran of the U.S. armed forces?\*

Do you have children or other people (excluding your spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you now and between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025?

At any time since you turned age 13, were you an orphan (no living biological or adoptive parent)?

At any time since you turned age 13, were you a ward of the court?

At any time since you turned age 13, were you in foster care?

Are you or were you a legally emancipated minor, as determined by a court in your state of residence?

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?

At any time on or after July 1, 2023, were you unaccompanied and either (1) homeless or (2) self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?\*\*

\* Answer “No” (you are not a veteran) if you (1) have never engaged in active duty (including basic training) in the U.S. armed forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard), (2) are currently a Reserve Officers’ Training Corps student or a cadet or midshipman at a service academy, (3) are a National Guard or Reserves enlistee activated only for state or training purposes, or (4) were engaged in active duty in the U.S. armed forces but released under dishonorable conditions. Also answer “No” if you’re currently serving in the U.S. armed forces and will continue to serve through June 30, 2024. \* Answer “Yes” (you are a

veteran) if you (1) have engaged in active duty (including basic training) in the U.S. armed forces or are a National Guard or Reserves enlistee who was called to active duty for other than state Federal Student Aid | StudentAid.gov Page 2 of 2 or training purposes, or were a cadet or midshipman at one of the service academies and (2) were released under a condition other than dishonorable. Also answer “Yes” if you’re not a veteran now but will be one by June 30, 2024.

\*\* If you don’t have a determination that you’re homeless, but you believe you’re an unaccompanied youth who is homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless, answer “No” to the FAFSA questions concerning being homeless. Then contact your financial aid office to explain your situation. “Homeless” means lacking fixed or regular housing. You may be homeless if you’re living in shelters, parks, motels, hotels, cars, or temporarily living with someone else because you have nowhere else to go.