Are You a Dependent or Independent Student?

**Students often assume they are independent from their parents if any or all of the following are true:**

- They do not live with their parents.
- Their parents do not support them financially.
- Their parents do not claim them on their federal income tax return.
- Their parents do not contribute to the cost of their college education

**However, federal regulations for financial aid require a student to meet one of the following and provide appropriate supporting documentation:**

- Be born before January 1, 1997.
- Be married before, or as of, the day the FAFSA is filed.
- At the beginning of the 2020 – 2021 school year, be in graduate school (i.e. MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD).
- Be currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training.
- Be a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces.
- Have children who will receive more than half of their support from you between 7/1/20 and 6/30/21.
- Have legal dependents (other than children or spouse) living with and receiving more than half of their support from you, now and through 6/30/21.
- Both of your parents are deceased.
- At any time since you turned age 13, you were in foster care, or were a dependent or ward of the court.
- You are or were an emancipated minor as determined by a court in your state of legal residence.
- You are or were in legal guardianship as determined by a court in your state of legal residence.
- At any time on or after July 1, 2019, your high school or school district homeless liaison determined that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless.
- At any time on or after July 1, 2019, the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determined that you were an unaccompanied homeless youth.
- At any time on or after July 1, 2019, the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determined that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless.