

EXCEPT IN UNUSUAL AND MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES THAT CAN BE DOCUMENTED, parents/family units have the primary financial responsibility for meeting educational costs. If you meet at least one of the criteria below, you can apply as independent (without parental data).

- Born before 1/1/2000
- Married (as of the date of application)
- Active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training
- Veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces
- Have a child and provide over half their financial support through 6/30/24
- Have a dependent other than spouse living with you and you provide over half their financial support through 6/30/24
- At any time since turning 13, were both parents deceased, were you in foster care, or a ward of the court
- In legal guardianship or an emancipated minor now (if under 18) or were as of last day of your 17th year
- On/after 7/1/22, documented unaccompanied and homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless as eligibly documented

If you cannot answer yes to any of the criteria above but think you should be able to apply without parental data, review the appeal criteria below. If you believe you qualify, provide the required documentation and RCC will review your appeal. We'll notify you via email of our decision.

CRITERIA

Parent(s) is unable to participate in the FAFSA process or student is unable to obtain parental data. **An unwillingness or inconvenience in providing information does not constitute being "unable."**

DOCUMENTATION

- Student statement explaining why you're unable to provide parental data, why you are "independent"
- Minimum of two letters from objective, responsible, third party adults (as "official" as possible) who are knowledgeable of and willing to attest to facts in your statement.
 - Letters should be on letterhead and clearly address, at a minimum, the following information:
 - Who is the author and what is their relationship to the student?
 - What situation exists between the student and the parent(s)?
 - What is the time frame of that situation?
 - Corroboration of other pertinent information presented by the student
 - Signature, date, address, title and phone number of the author
 - Examples of responsible adults: sponsor, high school teacher or counselor, social worker, court official/legal document, agency representative (official documents)

The FAFSA should be filed as soon as possible, even without parental data. Then, submit appropriate documentation to FinAid Advising. Documentation will only be accepted and consideration given to a student who meets the above criteria. Further information may be requested. Decisions are school specific, apply to only one academic year, and are final.

Submit documents to: Financial Aid Advising

3345 Redwood Highway, Grants Pass, OR 97527

General Phone: 541.956.7501 **Fax:** 541.471.3585

Email: Contact your Financial Aid Advisor based on your pathway
at <https://www.roguecc.edu/RCCfinAid/>