

If you have an [unusual circumstance](#), per federal guidelines that means you have a circumstance preventing you from providing parental information on the FAFSA. Examples of unusual circumstances include: having no contact with your parent(s), not knowing where they live, and/or leaving home due to an abusive situation.

Without an unusual circumstance, you are considered Independent if you can answer “yes” to one of these:

- Born before 1/1/2002
- 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 6/30/26
- Have a dependent other than spouse living with you and you provide over half their financial support through 6/30/26
- At any time since turning 13, were both your 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 7/1/24, 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 above but have an unusual circumstance, continue reading.

Items needed to appeal for Unusual Circumstances:

1. Student statement: explain why you’re unable to provide parental data and should be considered independent. Include details like names, dates, etc. **A parent’s unwillingness or inconvenience in providing information does not constitute being unable.**
2. Two (minimum) additional pieces of supporting documentation or statements that support the facts in your statement. The type of documentation we’ll need depends on the type of unusual circumstance.
 - Examples of documentation:
 - Court order that student’s parent(s) are incarcerated
 - Death certificate of deceased parent & birth certificate (or legal document) showing they were your parent/adoptive parent
 - Official agency documentation attesting to abuse, neglect or violence
 - If submitting statements from individuals as documentation, statements should be on letterhead when applicable and clearly address (at least) the following:
 - Who is the author and what is their relationship to the student?
 - What situation exists between the student and the parent(s) and the timeline?
 - Confirmation of other relevant information presented by the student
 - Signature, date, address, title and phone number of the author
 - Examples of objective, responsible adults: attorney/court appointed advocate, sponsor, high school teacher or counselor, social worker, court official, agency representative

Once RCC has received your FAFSA, you may submit applicable documentation for this appeal. 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.

TO SUBMIT DOCUMENTS: email your FinAid Advisor or come in-person to [Rogue Central](#) for fastest processing. [Find your FinAid Advisor](#) on our website.

Physical copies can be mailed to: 3345 Redwood Hwy | Grants Pass, OR 97527