



2023-2024 DOCUMENTATION OF INDEPENDENT STUDENT STATUS

Student's Name _____ SLU Banner ID Number _____

Information requested on this form is needed to process your financial aid for the 2023-2024 academic year.

On the 2023-24 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), you indicated you meet one or more of the descriptions below. You have been selected to verify this information by providing documentation for at least one of the items below to confirm your independent status for the 2023-2024 academic year.

☐ **DEPENDENT CHILDREN:** Submit a copy of your child's birth certificate **and** the Student Financial Statement, indicating that you provide more than one-half of the support for you child(ren) from now through June 30, 2024.

☐ **LEGAL DEPENDENTS (OTHER THAN A SPOUSE):** Submit the Student Financial Statement, indicating that you provide more than one-half of the support for your dependent(s), other than your child(ren)/spouse, from now through June 30, 2024.

☐ **ORPHAN, WARD OF THE COURT, OR FOSTER CARE:**

- Submit a copy of each of your parents' death certificates and a copy of your birth certificate (or adoption paperwork) if you had no living parent (biological or adoptive) at any time since you turned age 13, even if you are now adopted; or
- Submit a copy of legal documentation indicating you were a dependent or ward of the court at any time since you turned age 13, even if you are no longer a dependent or ward of the court today; or
- Submit a copy of documentation of foster care status if you were in foster care at any time since you turned age 13, even if you are no longer in foster care today.

☐ **EMANCIPATED MINOR:** Submit a copy of an approved petition for emancipation, court orders, or other similar legal papers documenting emancipation as a minor. The documentation must confirm the student was emancipated prior to age 18.
Note: Emancipation due to a parent's divorce or child support termination does not meet the requirement as emancipated minor.

☐ **LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP:** Submit documentation of legal guardianship immediately before the age of 18. This could include a copy of the approved petition for guardianship, court order, or other similar legal papers.
NOTE: This does not include guardianship to a biological parent resulting from a divorce or separation agreement.

☐ **HOMELESS OR UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH:** Submit supporting documentation (from a recognized third party such as homeless shelter, school district, Trio or Gear Up) of being an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless at any time on or after July 1, 2022.

☐ **ACTIVE-DUTY MILITARY STATUS:**

- If you are currently on active duty with the U.S. Armed Services, submit a letter from your unit commander documenting your active duty status.
- If you are a member of the National Guard or Reserves, and currently on federal active duty for other than training purposes, submit a letter from your unit commander documenting your active-duty status.

NOTE: If you are unable to document your independent status based on the above categories, then you are considered dependent for financial aid purposes. Please login to your FAFSA at studentaid.gov and answer "NO" to question 42-54. You must also provide parental income and asset information as well as a parent signature (your parent can sign electronically using his/her own FSA ID). If you face extenuating circumstances preventing you from obtaining parental information for the FAFSA, please contact your Student Financial Services Counselor.

STOP: Did you fully complete this form and include attachments? We will return any incomplete/unsigned forms for correction.

By signing, I certify that all of the information reported and/or attached is complete and correct. **WARNING:** If you purposely provide false or misleading information or withhold information, you may be subject to penalty of law and/or institutional sanctions.

Student Signature _____

Date _____

NOTE: Signatures must be handwritten. Computer fonts not acceptable

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Provide a copy of ONE of the following to demonstrate how you support yourself and more than one half of the cost of supporting your dependent(s)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Documentation of current employment (e.g. a current paystub).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Documentation of housing (e.g., a copy of a lease agreement or utility bill in your name).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Documentation of child support received, OR
<input type="checkbox"/>	Documentation of TANF, WIC, SNAP or other federal subsidized program in your name.
Did you claim the dependent(s) above as an exemption on your 2021 federal income tax return?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	YES
<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
If no, list the name of the person who claimed the dependent(s) and his/her relationship to you:	
Name:	Relationship:

Student Financial Statement

Your financial aid verification has thus far indicated that you had an unusually low income in the 2021 tax year. Please answer the following questions.

2021 Expenses: Indicate your monthly expenses for the 2021 year below and how they were met. Types of expenses are listed in the first column. Enter your estimate of **monthly** amounts in the second column. In the third column, give the agency or relationship(s) of the person(s) who pay(s) the expense or provides the item for you. If you pay the cost, enter **"Self"**.

2021 Expense	Monthly Expense	Who Pays For / Provides on Your Behalf?
Housing	\$	
Utilities	\$	
Food	\$	
Clothing	\$	
Transportation	\$	
Medical	\$	
Personal	\$	
Child Care	\$	
TOTAL	\$	

NOTE: If we have reason to believe that the information regarding the receipt of SNAP benefits is inaccurate, we may require documentation from the agency that issued the SNAP benefits in 2021 or 2022.

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STUDENT'S SIGNATURE

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Description of Circumstances

Please provide, in writing, how you met your 2021 expenses with the 2021 income reported on the FAFSA and other documentation.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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