

2025-26 Proof of Independent Status

- A student may be considered Independent by FAFSA standards if certain circumstances of the student are true.
- You indicated on the FAFSA that one of the following is true. Please provide the required documentation so we can verify your Independent Status.
- Your financial aid will not be processed until the documentation has been submitted and evaluated.

Circumstance	Required Documentation
<input type="checkbox"/> The student is currently serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces for purposes other than training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of your current active duty orders.
<input type="checkbox"/> The student is a veteran of the U.S. armed forces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of DD Form 214 (Report of Separation)
<input type="checkbox"/> The student has children or other people (excluding their spouse) who live with them and receive more than half of their support from the student now and between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the 2025-26 Certification of Dependent(s) Form on page 2
<input type="checkbox"/> At any time since the student turned 13, they were an orphan (no living biological or adoptive parent).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of Death Certificates for both parents
<input type="checkbox"/> At any time since the student turned 13, they were a ward of the court.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of a court's decision placing you in custody of the state
<input type="checkbox"/> At any time since the student turned 13, they were in foster care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of Foster Care Placement at age 13 or older
<input type="checkbox"/> The student is or was a legally emancipated minor, as determined by a court in their state of residence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of a court's decision which states that you were an emancipated minor immediately before you reached the age of adulthood in your state OR as of today. The court must be located in your state of legal residence at the time the court's decision was issued.
<input type="checkbox"/> The student is or was in a legal guardianship with someone other than their parent or stepparent, as determined by a court in their state of residence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of a court's decision which states that you were in a legal guardianship immediately before you reached the age of adulthood in your state OR as of today. The court must be located in your state of legal residence at the time the court's decision was issued.

2025-26 Certification of Dependent(s)

- A student who has a qualifying child(ren) **AND/OR** a qualifying dependent (other than a child or spouse) does not have to provide parent information on the FAFSA.
- The student must sign and date the following statement

I certify that I (print name) _____, the student, am the individual signing this statement. I am completing this form to verify:

- I have or will have a child(ren) by the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year

Child(ren) Name: _____

Child(ren) Date of Birth/Expected Date: _____

- I have or will have a qualifying dependent (other than a child or spouse) during the 2025-2026 school year

Dependent's Name: _____

Dependent's Name: _____

Dependent's Name: _____

- I personally will provide more than half of the financial support for the child(ren) OR qualifying dependent(s) during the 2025-2026 school year while I am a student at McPherson College

I certify that all the information reported on this form is complete and accurate.

Signature

Print

Date