

2027/2028 Dependency Verification

Student Name: _____

Student ID: _____

This form must be completed by the student if their dependency status needs to be verified. Please read the following carefully and answer all questions truthfully. Failure to submit the required documentation may delay the processing of your financial aid.

1. For my 2026-27 FAFSA I submitted documentation to the Carroll University Financial Aid Office related to my dependency status that was approved. My circumstances have not changed from what was previously submitted.

___ **Yes** – stop here - Sign page 6 and submit to the Financial Aid Office

___ **No** – move to step 2

To determine your dependency status, please review the following questions in order.

2. On your 2027-28 FAFSA, did you indicate that after the age of 13 you were an orphan, ward of the court or in foster care, or that you were in legal guardianship with someone other than your parent, stepparent or adoptive parent?

___ **Yes** – stop here.

1. Submit legal documentation to verify this information
2. Sign page 6 and submit to the Financial Aid Office

___ **No** – move to step 3

3. On your 2027-28 FAFSA, did you indicate that your parents refuse to provide their information on your FAFSA, and you are interested in a Direct Unsubsidized Loan Only OR that you have unusual circumstances that prevent you from contacting your parents or that contacting them would pose a risk to you?

___ **Yes** – stop here.

1. Go to page 2 and complete questions on pages 2-3. Submit this completed form along with the additional documentation listed on page 2.
2. Sign page 6 and submit to the Financial Aid Office

___ **No** – move to step 4

4. On your 2027-28 FAFSA, did you indicate that you were an unaccompanied youth and either homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?

___ **Yes** – stop here.

1. Go to page 4 and complete questions. Submit this completed form along with the additional documentation listed on page 4 (if applicable).
2. Sign page 6 and submit to the Financial Aid Office

___ **No** – move to step 5

5. Review your FAFSA and the questions on this form again. If you cannot answer Yes to any of them, please contact our office to determine next steps.

If you answered ‘Yes’ to question 3 – read and complete the following information -

Dependency overrides are intended for students who can prove and fully document unusual circumstances. We cannot approve requests for students whose sole reason for the request is because their parents are unwilling to provide parental information, or unwilling to provide financial assistance, or for students who have chosen to live on their own.

The Department of Education determines a student’s status as dependent or independent by the answers the student provides on the seven questions listed in Step Three of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students are classified as dependent or independent because federal student aid programs are based on the principle that students (and their parent or spouse, if applicable) are considered the primary source of support for post-secondary education.

Examples of unusual circumstances include:

- A student’s voluntary or involuntary removal from their parent(s) home due to an extreme situation that threatened the student’s health and/or safety and, due to these conditions, parent support was terminated.
- Incapacity of parent(s) such as incarceration, mental or physical illness, or the inability of the applicant to locate the parent(s).
- Other extenuating circumstances that can be sufficiently documented.

In recent years, the U.S. Department of Education has identified four conditions that, individually or in combination with one another, do not qualify as “unusual circumstances” or that do not merit a dependency override. Those circumstances are:

- Parents’ unwillingness or inability to contribute to the student’s education.
- Parents’ unwillingness to provide information on the application or for verification.
- Parents not claiming the student as a dependent for income tax purposes.
- Student can demonstrate total self-sufficiency.

In addition to completing the questions below, you will be required to attach/complete the following supporting documentation:

- [Independent Verification Worksheet](#) and 2025 signed federal tax information.
- A letter summarizing your situation and outlining the circumstances that you believe make you independent. Be sure to indicate how you provide for yourself.
- Two letters from a third party verifying your circumstances.
 - One must be from a professional (clergy member, guidance counselor, teacher, professor, doctor, family counselor, mental health professional, law enforcement officer, etc.)
 - The other letter can be from a professional or non-professional individual.

Complete all the questions below:

What are your present living arrangements?

When did you last live with your parent(s)? When did your parent(s) last provide any monetary support for you?

When did you last have contact with your parent(s)?

How often do you have contact with your parent(s)?

How do you support yourself and meet your living expenses?

Are you covered by your parent(s) medical insurance?

Are you covered by your parent(s) car insurance?

Do you own your own vehicle?

Are all utilities (such as electricity, gas, telephone, cable) in your name? Yes ☐ No ☐

List any cash support received from people other than your parents (includes amounts paid by others for bills in your name):

If you answered ‘Yes’ to question 4 – read and complete the following information -

You reported on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) that you are an unaccompanied youth who is homeless or are an unaccompanied youth providing for your own living expenses who is at risk of being homeless. To determine your eligibility for financial aid, the Financial Aid Office needs additional information. Please complete and submit this form with the required documentation to the Financial Aid Office.

Homeless youth definitions:

- **At risk of being homeless**—when a student’s housing may cease to be fixed, regular, and adequate, for example, a student who is being evicted and has been unable to find fixed, regular, and adequate housing.
- **Homeless**—lacking fixed, regular, and adequate housing.
- **Self-supporting**—when a student pays for his own living expenses, including fixed, regular, and adequate housing.
- **Unaccompanied**—when a student is not living in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.
- **Youth**—a student who is 21 years old or younger or still enrolled in high school as of the date he signs the application.
- **Housing Fixed**—stationary, permanent, and not subject to change.
- **Regular**—used on a predictable, routine, or consistent basis.
- **Adequate**—sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in the home.

Choose **one** of the following options:

☐ **Attach Documentation Verifying Homelessness or Risk of Homelessness:** By selecting this option, you declare that you are able to provide verification of your status as an unaccompanied youth who is a homeless child or youth defined in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

☐ **Unable to Obtain Documentation Verifying Homelessness:** Since you are unable to provide documentation from an official of your unaccompanied homeless youth status, please complete the questions outlined on **page 5**.

☐ **Not Homeless and Will Provide Parental Information on FAFSA:** I am not homeless and do not qualify as an unaccompanied homeless youth or youth at risk of homelessness. By selecting this option, you must correct the information on your FAFSA and submit it to the federal processor. Please contact our office at finaid@carrollu.edu or 262.524.7296 to discuss your situation further.

Unable to Obtain Documentation Verifying Homelessness: Please answer the questions below to the best of your ability:

Date of homelessness:

Duration of homelessness:

In which of the following situations did you reside during homelessness:

- ☐ Motel
- ☐ Car
- ☐ Campsite
- ☐ Shelter or other temporary housing program
- ☐ Inadequate housing (insufficient to meet physical and psychological needs)
- ☐ Temporarily living with others because of nowhere else to go.

In which of the following situations do you currently reside or would reside if not residing in campus housing:

- ☐ I currently have adequate housing
- ☐ Motel
- ☐ Car
- ☐ Campsite
- ☐ Shelter or other temporary housing program
- ☐ Inadequate housing (insufficient to meet physical and psychological needs)
- ☐ Temporarily living with others because of nowhere else to go.
- ☐ Other (Please explain):

Please check all scenarios that describe your current financial situation:

- ☐ I am self-supporting and receive zero help from others.
- ☐ I am at risk of being homeless due to inadequate fixed income and support.
- ☐ I am not self-supporting and receive adequate assistance/support from family/others.
- ☐ Other (Please explain):

Attach a document explaining your current situation that qualifies you as an unaccompanied homeless youth or being at risk of homelessness.

By signing this form, I certify that all the information reported on this form is complete and correct.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

WARNING: If you purposely give false or misleading information on this worksheet, you may be fined, be sentenced to jail, or both.

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