

Unaccompanied or Homeless Youth Determination

2024-2025

Introduction to this Form & the Review Process

Most unmarried students under the age of 24 are required to provide parental data on their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and are considered dependent students. However, students who are:

- unaccompanied and experiencing homelessness or
- self-supporting and at risk of experiencing homelessness

may be exempt from this requirement and can be eligible for financial aid as an independent student. As an independent student, parental data will not be required on your FAFSA.

Please read through the entire form to understand which sections should be completed related to your circumstances.

To help us determine your self-reported independent status, please complete this form and either:

- submit the requested supporting documentation **OR**
- complete an interview with a member of our team or submit a signed personal statement describing your circumstances.

Our team will review your circumstances and determine if you meet the qualifications to be deemed an independent student for financial aid purposes. In the case that additional information or documentation is needed, we may contact you or those you indicate on this form.

Throughout this process, all your submitted documentation and information will be kept confidential.

Student Information

First Name: _____ M.I. _____ Last Name: _____

Local Address: _____
(If none, please list name, phone number, and mailing address of current contact)

University Email: _____ Phone #: _____

Section A – Completed by Student *Student MUST complete this section*

Please select how you would like to proceed with this process. Select only one option:

- I will provide supporting documentation to proceed with the review process.
Please proceed to Section B.
- I would like to complete an interview with a member of the OSFA team to proceed with the review process.
Please proceed to Section D.



**SCHOLARSHIPS
& FINANCIAL AID**

Administration Building Room 208
P.O. Box 21066, Tucson AZ 85721-0066
TEL: 520.621.1858 FAX: 520.621.9473
financialaid.arizona.edu

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Section B Completed by an Authorized Agent *Skip to Section C if there is no authorized agent*

Student: To confirm your circumstances through an Authorized Agent, please have them complete this section of the form. Then, proceed to section D to sign this form. ***If you are unable to obtain certification from one of the authorized agents listed below, proceed to Section C.***

Authorized Agent: I am providing this letter of certification as a:

(check one, then list name, phone number, and other contact information below):

- A local educational agency homeless liaison, as designated by the *McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act*, or a designee of the liaison;
- The director or designee of an emergency or transitional shelter, street outreach program, homeless youth drop-in center, or other program serving individuals who are experiencing homelessness;
- The director or designee of a program funded under subtitle B of title IV of McKinney-Vento (relating to emergency shelter grants);
- The director or designee of a Federal TRIO program or a Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate program (GEAR UP) grant; or
- A financial aid administrator (FAA) at another institution who documented the student's circumstance in the same or a prior award year
- Other

I confirm that the student listed above: *(Please check one)*

- Became an unaccompanied homeless youth ***after July 1, 2023.***

Definition: after July 1, 2023, the student was living in a homeless situation, as defined by Section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Act, and was not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

- Became an unaccompanied, self-supporting, and at risk of homelessness ***after July 1, 2023.***

Definition: after July 1, 2023, applicants who are unaccompanied and homeless, or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless,

According to the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (Public Law 110-84), I am authorized to confirm the above student's living situation.

Housing/Liaison Official Name: _____ Title: _____

Agency Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone #: _____

Housing/Liaison Official Signature: _____ Date: _____



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Section C – Completed by the Student *skip if authorized agent completed Section B*

If you were unable to obtain certification from one of the authorized agents listed in Section B, you can self-certify in this section by checking the box below and providing other kinds of documentation to support your circumstances.

- I was not determined to be an unaccompanied youth who is homeless by any of the entities in Section B, but I am homeless or at-risk of homelessness and I am attaching supporting documentation or a signed statement from a third party including but not limited to a high school counselor, health professional, social worker, employer, mentor, doctor, or clergy member. I will submit a personal signed statement if no third party resource is applicable.

Please submit the additional supporting documentation, including your signed personal statement with this signed form.
Proceed to Section D to sign your form.

Section D – Completed by Student *Student MUST complete this section*

By signing below, I certify that the information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that I have the option to submit a signed statement or meet with a member of the OSFA team to conduct an interview if I am unable to provide additional documentation. I understand that purposely providing false or misleading information on this form may result in reduction or repayment of aid, fines and/or imprisonment in this and/or future years.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Additional Information & Definitions

The Higher Education Act (HEA) uses the [McKinney-Vento Act's definition of "homeless,"](#) which includes youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and the McKinney-Vento Act's definition of "unaccompanied," which includes youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. This definition is broader than shelters or the streets; it includes staying with others temporarily due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason, and staying in motels due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations. The U.S. Department of Education (ED) defines the term "at-risk of homelessness" to refer to students whose housing may cease to be fixed, regular, and adequate.

- **Unaccompanied**—when a student is not living in the physical custody of a parent or guardian
- **Homeless**—lacking fixed, regular, and adequate housing
- **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 or has been asked to leave their current residence and has been unable to find fixed, regular, and adequate housing
- **Self-supporting**—when a student pays for his or her own living expenses, which includes paying for fixed, regular, and adequate housing

Regardless of their age, applicants who are unaccompanied and homeless, or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless, qualify for a homeless youth determination and will be considered independent students on the FAFSA® form.



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