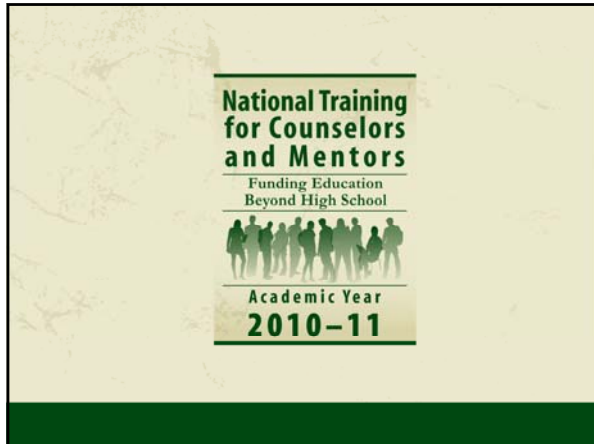
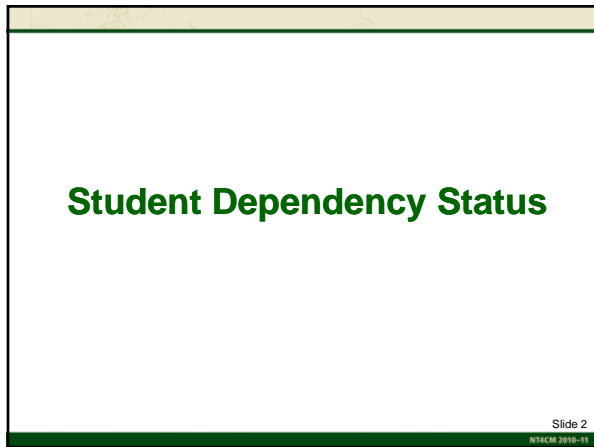
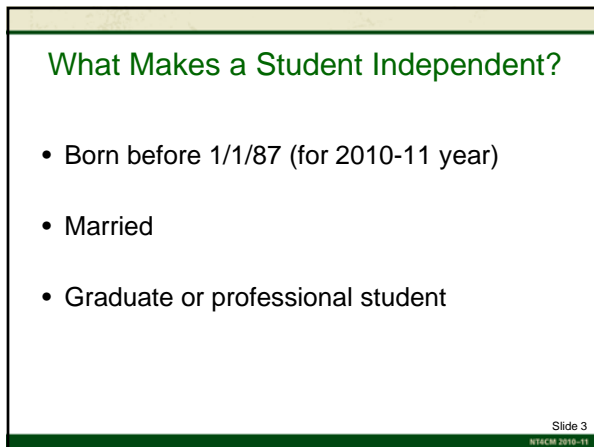


Student Dependency Status







Student Dependency Status

What Makes a Student Independent?

- Active duty military for purposes other than training
- Veteran

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What Makes a Student Independent?

- Children
- Dependents other than children or spouse

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What Makes a Student Independent?

- Orphan, foster care, dependent/ward of the court
- Emancipated minor
- Legal guardianship

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Student Dependency Status

What Makes a Student Independent?

- Homeless or at risk of becoming homeless
 - As determined by agency specified in FAFSA instructions
 - Or by financial aid administrator

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Dependency Overrides

- Financial aid administrator has authority to make a dependent student independent
- Student must present evidence of situation

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Dependency Overrides

- Special circumstances:
 - Abuse at home
 - Abandonment by parents
- NOT special circumstances:
 - Parents don't claim student on taxes
 - Student does not live with parents and supports self
 - Parents don't want to help pay for college
 - Parents refuse to provide information for FAFSA

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Student Dependency Status

Dependency Overrides

Documentation from Third Party:

- Teacher
- Social worker
- Member of clergy
- Court
- Law enforcement

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Completion of FAFSA Without Parental Information

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No Access to Parental Information

- FOTW asks whether student will provide parental data
- If no, student indicates he or she meets special circumstances criteria
- Student can submit FAFSA without parent information
- FAFSA will have reject code
 - Student needs to work with school to complete application

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Student Dependency Status

Parents Refuse to Provide Information

- Student indicates situation on FOTW, choosing option that he or she is applying only for an unsubsidized loan
- Student submits FAFSA without parental information
- EFC not calculated
- Student must contact school regarding documentation and decision

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Who Counts as a Parent for a Dependent Student?

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Case Study: Maria

1. Maria's parents are divorced. She lives with mom and only stays with dad on alternate weekends.
2. Maria's dad makes a lot more than her mom.
3. Maria now lives half-time with dad, half-time with mom.

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Student Dependency Status

Case Study: Maria

4. Maria's mom gets remarried. Does stepdad's information go on her FAFSA?
5. Maria's stepdad has his own kids. Should Maria leave his information off her FAFSA?

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Case Study: Shawn

1. Shawn's mom passed away, and he doesn't get along with dad. Shawn lives with older sister and her husband.
2. Shawn's dad is now incarcerated. Should Shawn take a paper FAFSA on a visit for signature?

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Case Study: Carlos

1. Carlos lives with his grandmother to take pressure off his mom.
2. Carlos's grandmother has been declared his legal guardian.

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Student Dependency Status

