

The Department of Education determines a student's status as dependent or independent by the answers the student provides on 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 parents) are considered the primary source of support for postsecondary education.

However, there are situations such as a student marrying before or during a given FAFSA year that can change the student's dependency status.

The following information explains the procedure used to determine a student's eligibility for a Marital Status Appeal at the University of Wyoming. A Financial Aid Administrator will review the student's appeal by examining the supporting documentation provided by the student and will either approve or deny the student's request. The student will be notified of the decision via their University of Wyoming email.

PLEASE NOTE: The Financial Aid Administrator's decision is final and cannot be appealed to the U.S. Department of Education.

Section I: Circumstances Given Consideration

1. All marital status circumstances that can be sufficiently documented will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Section II: Review Procedures

1. All submitted documentation will be reviewed by the financial aid administrator.
2. An official notification of the administrator's decision will be sent to the student along with an explanation of any further action necessary to complete his/her application for aid.
3. The financial aid administrator will make any necessary corrections to the FAFSA once the appeal decision has been made. If the corrections result in a change to a student's financial aid, the student's financial aid offer will be updated.

NOTE: To be considered for a Marital Status Appeal, you must complete the second page of this form and provide the documentation required to the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid.

Student's Name: _____ Student W#: _____

1. Did you file the 2023-24 FAFSA as a dependent with parent information included on the application?

Yes

No – I filed the FAFSA as an Independent student and did not list parent information.

2. What is the month and year that you were married? _____

3. Is your spouse a student at University of Wyoming?

Yes – Spouse Name: _____ Spouse W#: _____

No – If attending another institution, please provide a current **enrollment verification** form from the institution your spouse attends. This document is usually requested from the Registrar's office.

4. Please attach the following documentation:

- **A personal letter explaining your request for a marital status appeal. The appeal must address the financial hardship experienced in the student's current situation.**
- **Copy of your Marriage Certificate issued by the state in which you were married.**
- **Complete and sign the 2023-2024 Independent Student Verification Form. If both student and spouse attend the University of Wyoming, each student must sign the form. <https://www.uwyo.edu/sfa/forms/>**
- **Provide copies of you and your spouse's 2021 Tax Returns (1040) signed. If you or your spouse did not file taxes in 2021, please provide an Independent Student Non-Filing letter and attach any W-2's received in 2021. <https://www.uwyo.edu/sfa/applying-for-financial-aid/verification/verification-of-non-filing-letter-2324/index.html>**

I certify that the information listed on this form and all supporting documents concerning my request for a Marital Status Appeal are correct and complete. I also understand the Financial Aid Administrator's decision is final and cannot be appealed to the U.S. Department of Education.

Student Signature: _____

Spouse Signature: _____

Date: _____