

Who Is My “Parent” When I Fill Out the FAFSA?

“PARENT” = Legal (biological or adoptive) parent or stepparent (NOT grandparents, foster parents, legal guardians, older brothers or sisters, uncles or aunts, unless they have LEGALLY ADOPTED you).

Situation	Whose info to submit
Parents are living and married to each other	Both parents
Parents live together, but are not married	Both parents
Parent is widowed or was never married	Parent you live with
Parents are divorced/separated and DO NOT live together	Parent you live with most / parent who provides the most financial support
Parents are divorced/separated and DO live together	Both parents. For marital status, select “Unmarried and both parents living together.”
Parents are legally separated, but live together	Both parents. For marital status, select “Married.”
Parent you live with is married to a stepparent	Parent and Stepparent
One, but not both, of your parents has passed away	Answer about the surviving parent only

What if I don’t live with my parents?

You still must answer the questions about them if you’re considered a dependent student.

What if I have no contact with my parents?

If you don’t know where your parents live, or you’ve left home due to an abusive situation, submit the FAFSA without parent information and then immediately get in touch with the financial aid office at each college to explain your situation and get further instructions. (We will help you with this).