



2026-27 Frequently Asked Financial Aid Questions
Reference for Counselors/Practitioners

Q: Who is the parent?

A: Use the [FSA parent wizard](#) to help the student and family determine which parent needs to contribute to the student's application.

Q: My student's parents do not live in the country. Which application does my student file?

A: Use the [WASFA questionnaire](#) and [WA residency page](#) and let the student self-assess which application they are eligible for.

Q: Am I a dependent or independent student?

A: Use the federal student aid provided [questionnaire and guidance](#) to allow the student assess dependency status.

Q: What if the parent doesn't want to provide information on a financial aid application?

A: If the student does meet the criteria for [unusual circumstances](#) then they will only be eligible for unsubsidized loans. A best practice is to use the [WA financial aid calculator](#) and/or the [Federal Student Aid Estimator](#) to give an estimate of how much the student may be eligible for.

Q: Why is it important for parent contributors to complete their portion of the application?

A: Parents play an important role in the financial aid process. Parent contributors are required to provide information for the student to be eligible for aid. Students who are unable to provide parent/ contributor information on the FAFSA will only be eligible for unsubsidized loans.

Q. Where can I ask questions, connect with other fellow counselors/practitioners, and get updates?

A: [WSAC Wednesday](#) is designed for all counselors and practitioners to come together and learn about financial aid update and hear common trends in WA.