



2021-22 Notice: Documentation of Marital Separation

CONTACT: SepConf

This instruction applies to:

- Students who are separated from their spouse, or
- Parents who are separated from their spouse and have not remarried.

Thank you for submitting your 2021-22 FAFSA. FAFSA informs us that you are separated from your spouse, or that your parents are separated from each other. Therefore, the income information on your FAFSA should reflect that change in income and family size. This may affect the amount of financial aid for which you are eligible. This requires some additional follow up to make sure that your family situation is being represented accurately. Follow the instructions below.

You will not be able to receive a Financial Aid Offer until the below is resolved.

THIS IS AN URGENT MATTER.

What do I have to do so I can receive an offer of Financial Aid?

1	Confirm that you are separated from your spouse, or that your parents are separated.	<p>Please provide the Office of Student Financial Planning a document from a third party, confirming that you and your spouse are separated and not living in the same residence, and provide the addresses for both individuals who were married.</p> <p>This document could be a court document, a legal filing for separation, a written (or emailed) statement from a professional who would be familiar with this...i.e. a counselor, a lawyer, or a pastor.</p> <p>Why is this important? Separated persons would not report joint income on the FAFSA.</p>
AND		
2	If you filed a joint return, please provide a photocopy of all W-2s related to the 2019 tax year...for both individuals on the 2019 tax return.	<p>If you and your spouse filed a JOINT 2019 Federal Income Tax Return, the FAFSA must report only the income of the independent student or the dependent student's custodial parent income (or the income of the parent who provided greater support in 2019) to calculate the awards fairly.</p> <p>If there was business or rental property income on the tax return, we will also need a statement explaining the percentage of income from the business or rental property that belongs to each spouse.</p> <p>Why? To facilitate the calculations to separate the income on the joint return to reflect only your income (or if dependent, the appropriate parent's income).</p> <p>If you do not have copies of the W-2 forms you can download a Wage and Income Transcript from the IRS website at https://www.irs.gov/individuals/get-transcript.</p> <p>If you filed your 2018 tax returns as Married- Filing Separately, this step is not necessary.</p>

Feel free to call the Office of Student Financial Planning at 785-833-4315 or email finaid@kwu.edu, if you have questions.