

2023-24 Notice: Documentation of Marital Separation

CONTACT: SepConf

This instruction applies to:

- Students who are separated from their spouse, or who made a mistake entering marital status or tax filing status on the FAFSA
 - If you made a mistake and entered married, filing a joint tax return, but are single, please make a correction and resubmit your FAFSA online at studentaid.gov
- Parents who have separated from their spouse since 2021 taxes were filed, please complete steps listed below.
 - If your parent that is on the FAFSA is remarried, tax and income information from parent and step-parent will be needed from 2021.

Thank you for submitting your 2023-24 FAFSA. You indicated on your FAFSA that you are separated from your spouse, or that your parents are separated from each other. This requires some additional follow up to make sure that your family situation is being represented accurately on the FAFSA. This may affect the amount of financial aid for which you are eligible. 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 at the time 2021 taxes were filed.</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 sign copy of the 1040 tax return and a copy of all W-2s related to the 2021 tax year...for both individuals on the 2021 tax return.	<p>If you and your spouse filed a JOINT 2021 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 2021) 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>If you filed your 2021 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.