



Joshua Bauer <joshuabauer@southseneca.org>

Parent Info on FAFSA

9 messages

Joshua Bauer <joshuabauer@southseneca.org>
To: lidia.irizarry@flcc.edu

Mon, Feb 1, 2021 at 11:20 AM

Hello :)

My name's Josh; I'm a senior planning to attend FLCC this fall semester (accepted, and currently enrolling), and I saw your email address on the [Admitted Students](#) page of FLCC.

I'm currently working on the FAFSA; I've been wanting to finish it since November but have run into some issues regarding whether or not I need to provide parent info, since one of them passed away and the other I haven't been living with for over a year.

I've been looking into the clauses of part three that would provide me the ability to exclude such information, specifically questions 54, 55, 56, and 57, regarding being "homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless", however there has been no such determination by the entities required (i.e. emergency shelter, high school, etc) in order for me to be categorized under that description, even though given my circumstances I believe I would.

I have also observed the "notes" of the FAFSA on page 10 which indicate if I "have left home due to an abusive family environment," (such being the case in my situation) that I should directly contact the college (you) before filling out the FAFSA, and may not need to include parental information.

Would you be able to possibly look into this situation and provide some insight as to how I should finish filling this out?

The address from which I'm writing this is my school email. I can also be reached at my personal email, frozenropes72@gmail.com.

I can provide my student ID number as well if that would be useful.

Thank you.

Lidia Irizarry <Lidia.Irizarry@flcc.edu>
To: Joshua Bauer <joshuabauer@southseneca.org>

Mon, Feb 1, 2021 at 12:00 PM

Hi Joshua-

Sorry for your circumstance. As far as answering the questions on the FAFSA, we answer them as it is. If you do have their 2019 taxes, we can use them and complete a Special Condition form after the college receives the FAFSA.

FAFSA, 21/22 is based on 2019 Tax information, if you don't have them then you answer the questions according to your circumstance. The FAFSA arrives 3-5 business days. After FAFSA completed, and after June, you can complete the form I am attaching and send to our office.

You will check the circumstance on left, and support it by attaching the information requested on the right of the form (Special Condition Request Form).

It will be in for Verification and your financial aid counselor will either send you an award letter or ask for more information to complete the Verification process.

I hope this makes sense, if it doesn't we can walk through the FAFSA application to complete it.

Let me know which day/time works best for you and we can schedule a one on one phone appointment.

My hours are:

FAFSA Appointment Hours:

Mon & Wed, 9:00 am – 12:45 pm

Tues, 11:30 am – 3:15 pm

Thurs, 12:00 pm – 3:45 pm

Fri, 8:00 am – 11:45 am every other Fri, 9:30 am – 1:15 pm

Lidia

From: Joshua Bauer <joshuabauer@southseneca.org>

Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 11:20 AM

To: Lidia Irizarry <Lidia.Irizarry@flcc.edu>

Subject: Parent Info on FAFSA

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Special Condition Request Form 2021-2022.pdf

148K

Joshua Bauer <joshuabauer@southseneca.org>

To: Lidia Irizarry <Lidia.Irizarry@flcc.edu>

Wed, Feb 3, 2021 at 5:46 PM

Thank you.

So to make sure I understand correctly:

You mentioned at the start of your email that if you have my parents' 2019 tax returns (presumably via the FAFSA) that you can use that information to complete a "Special Condition Form," however isn't that form only needed if I don't have that information in the first place? So in other words, if I was able to obtain my parent's financial information, it seems I could just fill out the FAFSA as normal and wouldn't need the Special Condition Form.

This confuses me slightly as to the purpose of the form if it's supposed to alleviate the amount of parental information I need, yet it actually requires the same amount of information as the original FAFSA.

I've looked over the PDF attachment, and it seems self-explanatory. The parent's projected income for 2021, I may or may not be able to obtain, and in the case that I'm not I'm assuming I would have to guess that. I'm not sure what effect this has, if any, but my surviving parent does not support me financially in any way, and I do not live with her, so I'm not sure if her projected income is in fact relevant to what would be considered my expected family contribution.

On that note, I'm aware that there are grants, loans, etc available from places other than the college, such as at the Federal and State level (Pell Grant, FSEOG, TAP, etc). I understand that sending the completed form to FLCC will help your financial aid office determine what I'm eligible for, but are there any other actions I should be taking to ensure those entities are equally aware of the information included on that Special Condition Form? ...or will they automatically receive that information from you?

Thanks,
Josh

Lidia Irizarry <Lidia.Irizarry@flcc.edu>
To: Joshua Bauer <joshuabauer@southseneca.org>

Thu, Feb 4, 2021 at 12:34 PM

Hi Joshua-

My replies are in red below.

From: Joshua Bauer <joshuabauer@southseneca.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 5:47 PM
To: Lidia Irizarry <Lidia.Irizarry@flcc.edu>
Subject: Re: Parent Info on FAFSA

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Thank you.

So to make sure I understand correctly:

You mentioned at the start of your email that if you **If you have them, we can include the information from their taxes** have my parents' 2019 tax returns (presumably via the FAFSA) **once their tax information is added, we can click and link, on Data Retrieval and the FAFSA will link with the IRS and add that information since they are both government forms** that you can use that information to complete a "Special Condition Form," however isn't that form only needed if I don't have that information in the first place? **Correct, if you a special circumstance, i.e. were employed and made a good living and you lost your job and your income went to \$0.** So in other words, if I was able to obtain my parent's financial information, it

seems I could just fill out the FAFSA as normal and wouldn't need the Special Condition Form. **Correct, but if you are under 24 years of age, your parent, just one, needs an FSA ID tossing the FAFSA at the end.**

This confuses me slightly as to the purpose of the form if it's supposed to alleviate the amount of parental information **it is to see your, everyone's financial picture in order to award you based on need.** I need, yet it actually requires the same amount of information as the original FAFSA.

I've looked over the PDF attachment, and it seems self-explanatory. The parent's projected income for 2021, I may or may not be able to obtain, **the FAFSA is based on 2019 taxes, but if your current situation is not the same as it was in 2019 then you would complete the form.** and in the case that I'm not I'm assuming I would have to guess that. I'm not sure what effect this has, if any, but my surviving parent does not support me financially in any way, and I do not live with her, so I'm not sure if her projected income is in fact relevant to what would be considered my expected family contribution. **This would affect the FAFSA for next year.**

On that note, I'm aware that there are grants, loans, etc available from places other than the college, such as at the Federal and State level (Pell Grant, FSEOG, TAP, etc). I understand that sending the completed form to FLCC will help your financial aid office determine what I'm eligible for, but are there any other actions I should be taking to ensure those entities **Do you mean other departments within the college? Yes, we communicate.** are equally aware of the information included on that Special Condition Form? ...or will they automatically receive that information from you? **Other colleges will have their own forms, similar, they try to help the student financially any way they can. Be sure to ask all the right questions to ensure you maximize on this opportunity. In order to receive grants, loans etc., you have to complete the FAFSA form.**

Thanks,

Josh

Joshua Bauer <joshuabauer@southseneca.org>

Thu, Feb 4, 2021 at 2:18 PM

To: Lidia Irizarry <Lidia.Irizarry@flcc.edu>

Okay, so the Special Condition Form is a government form then, to be used by them as well, and not just FLCC. I had assumed it was not because of the FLCC logo, address, etc.

My main worry

So these are my options as I understand it; please correct me if I'm wrong:

Option 1)

Obtain my parent's 2019 tax returns, and list them on the FAFSA even though she does not support me financially and we don't live together

Result of option 1) The Federal government gets the FAFSA, has all the info it needs, sends it to you (FLCC), and also to the **New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)**, along with any other programs that need that information, like the Pell Grant, FSEOG, etc (which is what I meant by other entities, not departments within FLCC). If I were able to obtain her tax info, this would be ideal.

Option 2)

I answer "yes" to any one of the 13 questions in Part Three of the FAFSA (you mentioned having to be over 24, but as I understand it that is only one of the thirteen independently qualifying criteria). I have been "self-supporting and at risk of being homeless" since the time my parent had me leave, and since then I've been living at a friend's house, which is currently for sale. I'm having difficulty answering yes to one of those questions (55, 56, and 57) because the people that must confirm my situation to be such (i.e. emergency shelter, high school, etc) have not been given the opportunity to do so, and I don't know how to ask them to. I was told the college could help in issuing that official determination, so I could answer yes to that, but perhaps I was misled.

Result of option 2) I'm considered an "independent" student I believe, but otherwise, same result as option 1.

Option 3)

I fill out the FAFSA as a dependent (aka don't try to answer yes to the questions in Part Three of the FAFSA), but still don't provide parental information (skip parts 4 and 5), seeing as I currently don't have access to any of it (such option is provided for within the FAFSA under the notes on page 10, if I have "left home due to an abusive family environment")

Result of option 3)

The Federal government gets the FAFSA and sends it to you (FLCC). You then issue me that Special Condition Form, I fill it out, send it back to you, and you (FLCC) determine what amount you will grant me based on that Special Condition Form.

In the case of option 3, My question is whether or not all the other places that award me money **other than FLCC** will have all the information they need in this process. You mentioned the Special Condition Form was a government form, which makes me want to assume they will. But at the same time, it's got the FLCC logo and contact information all over it, which is why I want to make sure. Also, the Special Condition Form could not be submitted until after the FAFSA deadline in June, but isn't a decision supposed to already be made by that time regarding my expected family contribution, etc? In other words, will that date be too late for the other institutions (TAP and other places using the FAFSA) that were supposed to have already received enough information by that time on which to make a decision?

If I can't get my parent's financial info, I believe option 2 is more ideal than option 3, correct?

Sorry if that's a lot. I'm hoping my questions make more sense now that I've clarified which questions correspond to which options I'm looking to be able to pursue.

Thank you so much for your time,
Josh

Joshua Bauer <joshuabauer@southseneca.org>
To: Lidia Irizarry <Lidia.Irizarry@flcc.edu>

Thu, Feb 4, 2021 at 2:21 PM

The first two lines of my previous email are out of place; I forgot to delete them - apologies.

Lidia Irizarry <Lidia.Irizarry@flcc.edu>
To: Joshua Bauer <joshuabauer@southseneca.org>

Thu, Feb 4, 2021 at 3:13 PM

No, it is our form, but every college has a form requesting similar information to have on file as we are audited.

From: Joshua Bauer <joshuabauer@southseneca.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 2:19 PM
To: Lidia Irizarry <Lidia.Irizarry@flcc.edu>
Subject: Re: Parent Info on FAFSA

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Okay, so the Special Condition Form is a government form then, to be used by them as well, and not just FLCC. I had assumed it was not because of the FLCC logo, address, etc.

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Joshua Bauer <joshuabauer@southseneca.org>

Fri, Feb 5, 2021 at 8:29 AM

To: Lidia Irizarry <Lidia.Irizarry@flcc.edu>

I'm not worried about other colleges, because I'm not going to them. I'm asking about programs at the state and federal level that claim to award money based on the information stated in the FAFSA. If I turn the FAFSA in "incomplete" via option 3, I may be able to make up for it by completing your Special Condition Form, and that helps you, but that seems to not help any of them, which I'm worried may lead to them not granting money due to a lack of information.

In the case that I must resort to option 3, do you have any knowledge of how to satisfy their requirements as well, or should I be asking someone else?

Also, is there anything the college can do to help me obtain the status described in questions 55, 56, and 57 of the FAFSA, so that I could pursue option 2 instead of option 3, in which case I wouldn't need to be as concerned about those places, since I'd be able to fully complete the FAFSA and they would have all the information they need from that.

Josh

Lidia Irizarry <Lidia.Irizarry@flcc.edu>
To: Joshua Bauer <joshuabauer@southseneca.org>

Mon, Feb 8, 2021 at 10:38 AM

Hi Joshua-

My replies are in red below – good questions by the way.

Lidia

From: Joshua Bauer <joshuabauer@southseneca.org>
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 8:30 AM
To: Lidia Irizarry <Lidia.Irizarry@flcc.edu>
Subject: Re: Parent Info on FAFSA

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I'm not worried about other colleges, because I'm not going to them. I'm asking about programs at the state and federal level that claim to award money based on the information stated in the FAFSA. If I turn the FAFSA in "incomplete" via option 3, I may be able to make up for it by completing your Special Condition Form, and that helps you, but that seems to not help any of them, which I'm worried may lead to them not granting money due to a lack of information. **All answers on FAFSA must be complete or the college will not receive it. It will be incomplete. Once the FAFSA is complete, then the financial aid counselor, assigned to you, will either request more information from you – which is when you would let them know of your situation and they will send you the form (s) you need to complete. Without the FAFSA or TAP applications completed, we cannot award you financial aid per Fed, and State.**

In the case that I must resort to option 3, do you have any knowledge of how to satisfy their requirements as well, or should I be asking someone else?

Also, is there anything the college can do to help me obtain the status described in questions 55, 56, and 57 of the FAFSA, so that I could pursue option 2 instead of option 3, in which case I wouldn't need to be as concern - ed about those places, since I'd be able to fully complete the FAFSA and they would have all the information they need from that.

Answer these questions as they pertain to you. If you check that you were a homeless youth, a high school counselor or shelter will have to write a letter stating so. If your situation was one way at the start of school, then changed half way through, then you answer it the best way you can and you can explain in it in an appeal. (another form we have which your counselor will send to you)

Josh