



**PARENT Marital Status Review  
2020-2021**

Parent(s) of a dependent student

Your child’s FAFSA contains **potentially conflicting** information regarding your marital status and tax filing status.

Non-conflicting FAFSA Information		
Parent Marital Status	Parent Marital Status Date	2018 Parent Tax Filing Status
Married/Remarried/Domestic Partner	12/31/2018 or earlier	Married Filing Separately or Married Filing Jointly
	01/01/2019 or later	Single or Head of Household *
Separated	06/30/2018 or earlier	Married Filing Separately or Married Filing Jointly or Head of Household*
	07/01/2018 to 12/31/2018	Married filing Separately or Married Filing Jointly
	01/01/2019 or later	Married filing Separately or Married Filing Jointly
Divorced	12/31/2018 or earlier	Single or Head of Household
	01/01/2019 or later	Married Filing Separately or Married Filing Jointly or Head of Household *
Widowed	01/01/2016 to 12/31/2017	Qualifying Widow(er)**, or Single or Head of Household*
	01/01/2018 or later	Married filing Separately or Married Filing Jointly
Single	NA	Single or Head of Household

If your marital status and tax filing status **are not** in conflict, ensure that your (and your spouse’s if applicable) income data (adjusted gross income, taxes paid, wages, etc.) are accounted for on your child’s FAFSA. If some or all of your spouse’s income data has been omitted from your child’s FAFSA, you and your child must update your child’s FAFSA at [www.FAFSA.ed.gov](http://www.FAFSA.ed.gov) to include your spouse’s information. If you have questions, contact a Financial Aid Counselor at 866-774-0004.

If your marital status and tax filing status **are** in conflict, please update your child’s FAFSA with your correct marital status, and/or status date, and/or tax filing status. Please note that any change to your marital status or marital status date will require proof of your status (e.g. marriage certificate or divorce paperwork). If you filed your income taxes with the incorrect status (see chart above), you may need to amend your 2018 taxes. Please contact a Financial Aid Counselor at 866-774-0004 for more information.

\* Head of Household is appropriate only for unmarried people or people who are married but were separated the last 6 months of the tax filing year.  
 \*\* To file as a qualifying widow(er), you must not have remarried before the end of 2018. In the year of the death you had to have been entitled to file a joint return with your spouse, you had to have paid more than half the cost of keeping up your home for the year, and your dependent child or stepchild must have lived in your home all year (foster child or grandchild does not meet this test).