



Office of Financial Aid and Veteran Services
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2020-2021 Special Circumstance Independent Students

Name _____

Parkland ID Number _____

The 2018 income information reported on your FAFSA may not be an accurate indicator of your ability to pay for educational costs in the 2020-21 school year. By providing documentation of your unusual circumstance, you may qualify for reevaluation of your financial aid eligibility. If you do not meet any of the circumstances described below, but feel your financial situation has changed significantly, please meet with a financial aid advisor. Each case will be evaluated on an individual basis, and submission of this form does not guarantee a change in your financial aid eligibility. Only one special circumstance form will be accepted per academic year.

We are not able to estimate business or seasonal income. For families with this type of income, a special circumstance will only be accepted after you have completed your 2020 taxes.

This form has four parts. Complete each section and attach all required documents before submitting. You will be contacted at your Parkland student email if your special circumstance is incomplete, or if further documentation is needed.

Part 1: General information (required for all request types)

2020-21 FAFSA

You must complete the 2020-21 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov and review the results before submitting this form. Answer all questions as asked, even if your current financial situation differs from that of 2018.

2020-21 FAFSA

2020-21 FAFSA verification

The verification process confirms that the information on a FAFSA application is accurate. Although your FAFSA may not originally have been chosen for verification by the federal processor, Parkland requires that all students requesting a special circumstance complete verification. Verification packets are available on Parkland's website or in the financial aid office.

2020-21 V1 Independent Verification

Rationale

You must provide a typed statement explaining your special circumstance situation.

Typed Statement

Part 2: Select your circumstance and attach all required documentation

Unemployment

The student/spouse earned money in 2018, but has since lost their job and has been unemployed for an extended period in 2020. Expected income for 2020 is significantly lower than reported in 2018.

Who became unemployed? Student Spouse Last date worked: _____

Has this person started a new job? No Yes Start date: _____

Letter from the previous employer(s) indicating the date employment ended. This must be on company letterhead.

Copy of most recent paystub or earnings statement from each job worked in 2020.

Current statement of unemployment benefits indicating weekly benefit amount and total benefits received to date.

If you do not receive unemployment benefits, sign here: _____

Employment Change

Since 2018, the student/spouse has changed jobs and will earn significantly less in 2020 than they did in 2018.

- Who changed jobs? Student Spouse Date of change: _____
- Letter(s) from the previous employer(s) indicating the date employment ended, or in the case of reduced hours, a letter stating that hours or wages have been reduced and by how much.
- Letter(s) from current employer(s) stating the date employment began, average hours per week and hourly pay rate.
- Copy of most recent paystub or earnings statement from each job worked in 2020.

One-Time Income

In 2018 the student/spouse received a one-time income, such as a Social Security payment, inheritance, IRA or pension distribution. This income will not be received in future years.

- Who received this income? Student Spouse
- Statement from the third-party source of the one-time income indicating the payment amount and date paid.
- Typed statement from the recipient of the income. This statement must be specific and detailed, and may include additional documentation, such as receipts. It must explain:
 - The reason for the one-time payment, and
 - How the funds were spent, including amounts and dates.

Reduction in Untaxed Income

The student/spouse received an income benefit (not employment income) for at least 10 weeks in 2018 which has now been lost. Possible examples include Social Security benefits, court-ordered child support, retirement, or disability benefits.

- Who lost the benefit? Student Spouse
- Statement of termination or reduction from the source of income, indicating the last date the benefit was received.
- Statement from the source of income indicating the dates the benefit were received, including the amount of benefit received in 2018 and an estimate of benefits (if any) to be received in 2020.

Medical/Dental Expenses

In 2018 the student's family paid at least 10% of total income for medical and/or dental care. Payments reimbursed through insurance or Flex Spending accounts, or expenses claimed as a tax benefit will not be considered a special circumstance.

- Documentation showing medical/dental expenses paid in 2018, including medical bills and receipts.
- Copy of 2018 Federal 1040 tax return, including Schedule A

Divorce or Separation

After submission of the 2020-21 FAFSA, divorce or separation has resulted in a reduction of family income.

- For divorce: copy of divorce decree.
- For separation: notarized statement indicating the date of separation.
- For separation: documentation demonstrating two separate households, such as lease(s), mortgage(s), or utility bill(s).
- If a joint Federal tax return was filed in 2018, submit copies of 2019 W-2 forms for both spouses.

Death

After submission of the 2020-21 FAFSA, the student's spouse has died.

- Copy of death certificate.
- If a joint Federal tax return was filed in 2018, submit copies of 2018 W-2 forms for both the student and spouse.

Part 3: Estimate your family's expected 2020 income

Provide estimates of your family's expected income for the 2020 tax year. This includes income you or your spouse have already received (year to date income) and income that you expect to receive through the end of the year (estimated income). Include both taxable and untaxed income.

	YEAR TO DATE ESTIMATED INCOME From 1/1/20 to 12/31/20
Student income from work.....	\$ _____
Spouse income from work.....	\$ _____
Unemployment benefits.....	\$ _____
Child support <i>received</i>	\$ _____
Worker's Compensation.....	\$ _____
Social Security benefits.....	\$ _____
Other untaxed income, such as housing, food, and other living allowances from military, clergy, and others.....	\$ _____

Part 4: Sign and return to the Office of Financial Aid and Veteran Services

Certification: All of the above information on this form and the attached documentation is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. If asked by an authorized official, I agree to give additional proof of the information that I have given on this form. I realize this proof may include a copy of a federal or state tax return. I also realize that if I do not give proof when asked, the Special Circumstance will not be reviewed.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

OFFICE USE ONLY

APPROVED DENIED NO ACTION TAKEN

Staff Signature _____ Date _____

Notes _____
