

Professional Judgements

The FAFSA Simplification Act distinguishes between different categories of professional judgement by amending sections 479 A of the HEA.

Special Circumstance refers to the financial situations (lost of job, etc.) that justify an aid administrator adjusting data elements in COA (cost of attendance) or in the EFC calculation.

The law gives some examples of special circumstance that MAY be considered (HEA Sec. 479A):

- Change in employment status, income, or assets
- Change in housing status (e.g., homelessness)
- Tuition expense at an elementary or secondary school
- Medical, dental, or nursing home expense not covered by insurance
- Child or dependent care expense
- Severe disability of the student or other member of the student household
- Other changes or adjustments that impact the student's cost or ability to pay for college

Unusual Circumstances refer to the conditions that justify an aid administrator making an adjustment to student's dependency based on a unique situation (e.g., human trafficking, refugee, or asylee status, parental abuse or abandonment, incarceration) more commonly referred as a dependency override.

Unusual Circumstance do include:

- Human trafficking, as describe in the Trafficking Victim Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 et Seq.)
- Legally granted refugee or asylum status
- Parental abandonment or estrangement; or
- Student or parent incarceration

Unusual Circumstance do not include

- Parents refuse to contribute to the student's education
- Parents will not provide information for FAFSA or verification
- Parents do not claim the student as a dependent or income tax purposes
- Student demonstrates total self-sufficiency

Criteria for Special Circumstance or Unusual Circumstance

- Complete the FAFSA application for appropriate academic year (studentaid.gov)
- Once FAFSA is processed and awarded, then log into financial aid e-form to complete Adjustment to EFC or Dependency Status Petition form.
- Please remember you must provide all required documentation for your special or unusual circumstance to be processed.
- Special and Unusual Circumstance are processed in the order in which they are received.

- Students will be notified by email or letter once a decision has been made on their request.

More Information:

For more information, please visit our Financial Aid Service Center in Tony Rand Student Center (TRSC) Room 2. The following staff members are available for assistance.

- Brandy Finney- Financial Aid Advisor (A-E) finneb@faytechcc.edu
- Akash Chhibber-Financial Aid Advisor (F-J) chhibbea@faytechcc.edu
- Barbara Wiley- Financial Aid Advisor (K-O) wileyb@faytechcc.edu
- Torian Koonce Financial Aid Advisor (P-Z) Kooncet@faytechcc.edu
- Tiffany Youngblood -Assistant Director youngblt@faytechcc.edu