

As of today, what is the marital status of your parents?

This is question **can't** be left blank.

Select the answer that describes your parents' marital status **as of the day you submit your FAFSA form.**

“Parent” refers to a biological or adoptive parent or a person determined by the state to be a parent (for example, if the parent is listed on the birth certificate). If one of your parents is widowed or divorced and has remarried, answer the questions about that parent **and your stepparent**. Grandparents, foster parents, legal guardians, older brothers or sisters, widowed stepparents, aunts, and uncles aren't considered parents unless they have legally adopted you.

“Married or Remarried” doesn't include parents who are living together who aren't otherwise legally married unless your parents' state of legal residence recognizes their relationship as a common law marriage. Additionally, if one of your parents is widowed or divorced and has remarried, choose “Married or Remarried” and answer the questions about that parent **and your stepparent**.

For FAFSA purposes, **“Separated”** includes a married couple who is considered legally separated by a state, or if the couple is legally married but has chosen to live separate lives, including living in separate households, as though they weren't married. If your parents are separated but living together, select “Married or Remarried,” not “Divorced or Separated.”

Note: When two married persons live as a married couple **but are separated by physical distance or have separate households, they're considered married for FAFSA purposes.**

“Unmarried and both legal parents living together” means that both of your legal parents (biological and/or adoptive) aren't married to each other but live in the same household. If your legal parents are divorced but living together, select “Unmarried and both legal parents living together.”

What if my parents' marital status as of today is different than the marital status reported on their 2019 tax return(s)?

The *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form asks for your parents' marital status as of the day you fill it out, but it also asks for your parents' income and tax return information from 2019. Therefore, your parents' marital status might be different than it was when they filed their tax return(s).

If your parents filed a joint tax return for 2019 but they are no longer married when you fill out the FAFSA form, you'll need to subtract the tax return information for your parent's former spouse to correctly answer the FAFSA questions only about the parent whose information you're providing on the FAFSA form.

If your parent didn't file a joint tax return for 2019 but is married when you fill out the FAFSA form, you'll need to add the 2019 tax return information for your parent's current spouse to correctly answer the FAFSA questions about the parent whose information you're providing on the FAFSA form and his or her current spouse.

What if my parent's current spouse is different from the spouse listed on his or her 2019 tax return?

The *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form asks for your parents' marital status as of the day you fill it out, but it also asks for your parents' income and tax return information from 2019. Therefore, your parents' marital status may be different than it was when they filed their tax return(s).

If your parent filed a joint tax return for 2019 but he or she is married to a different person when you fill out the FAFSA form, you'll need to subtract the tax return information for your parent's former spouse, and then add the 2019 tax return information for your parent's current spouse to correctly answer the FAFSA questions about your parent and his or her current spouse.

What if my parent is recently widowed?

The *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form asks for your parents' marital status as of the day you fill it out, but it asks for your parents' income and tax return information from 2019. Therefore, your parents' marital status might be different than it was when they filed their tax return(s).

If your parent recently became widowed, you'll need to subtract the tax return information for your parent's spouse to correctly answer the questions only about the parent whose information you're providing on the FAFSA form.