



State University of New York College of
Environmental Science and Forestry

Dear SUNY ESF Student:

You have reported on the FAFSA that you are an independent student based on one or more of the following reasons:

- At any time since you turned age 13, both your parents were deceased, you were in foster care or were a dependent or ward of the court.
- As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, you are or were an emancipated minor.
- Someone other than your parent or stepparent has legal guardianship of you, as determined by a court in your state of legal residence.
- At any time on or after July 1, 2024, your high school or school district homeless liaison determined that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless.
- At any time on or after July 1, 2024, the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determined that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless.
- At any time on or after July 1, 2024, the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determined that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless.

The correct values for these questions must be confirmed and validated with supporting documentation. Your prompt attention is essential and appreciated - **no federal aid will be disbursed or appear on your billing statement until this process is completed.** **Once the correct information has been confirmed, the aid package will be reviewed to determine if any changes are required.**

What documents are needed for this validation? Students should complete and submit the 2025-2026 Independent Validation Worksheet included with this letter. Please be sure to read all instructions carefully and provide all required “wet” signatures and supporting documentation.

How should documentation be submitted? All documentation should be submitted to:

SUNY ESF Office of Financial Aid
113 Bray Hall
1 Forestry Drive
Syracuse, NY 13210
(315) 470-6670
(315) 470-4734 (Fax)

Please do not e-mail any confidential information. You may also submit documentation using the document upload function available through the [student's login](https://banner.esf.edu/StudentSelfService/ssb/financialAid) to the Self-Service Portal – <https://banner.esf.edu/StudentSelfService/ssb/financialAid>.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, please call us at 315-470-6670 or e-mail us at finaid@esf.edu.

Sincerely,

Mark J. Hill
Director of Financial Aid

2025-2026 Federal Student Aid
Independent Validation Worksheet



Office of Financial Aid - SUNY ESF
1 Forestry Drive Syracuse, NY 13210
315-470-6670; 315-470-4734 (Fax)
E-mail: finaid@esf.edu (no documents)

You have reported on the FAFSA that you are an independent student based on one or more reasons which must be validated.

Please complete this worksheet entirely and return it to the Office of Financial Aid along with all required documentation. Documentation may be submitted using postal mail or fax with the contact information above, or through the student's account on the secure Self-Service Portal at <https://banner.esf.edu/StudentSelfService/ssb/financialAid>. Please do not e-mail any validation information.

Student Last Name	Student First Name	Student MI	Student ID – F#####
-------------------	--------------------	------------	---------------------

At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care or were you a dependent or ward of the court? <i>If yes, please submit copies of both parents' death certificates or check the box to the right if you have already submitted this documentation to SUNY ESF for a previous year.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
--	--

As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, are you or were you an emancipated minor? <i>If yes, please submit a copy of the court order indicating legal emancipation or check the box to the right if you have already submitted this documentation to SUNY ESF for a previous year.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
---	--

Does someone other than your parent or stepparent have legal guardianship of you, as determined by a court in your state of legal residence? Note: Custody is not the same as guardianship. <i>If yes, please submit a copy of the court order reflecting your legal guardianship status or check the box to the right if you have already submitted this documentation to SUNY ESF for a previous year.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
--	--

At any time on or after July 1, 2024, did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless? <i>If yes, please submit a signed letter from the high school or school district homeless liaison confirming this status.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
---	--

At any time on or after July 1, 2024, did the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless? <i>If yes, please submit a signed letter from the director confirming this status.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
---	--

At any time on or after July 1, 2024, did the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless? <i>If yes, please submit a signed letter from the director confirming this status.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
---	--

Each person signing this worksheet certifies that all the information reported on it is complete and correct. The student and one parent whose information was reported on the FAFSA must sign and date. If you purposely give false or misleading information on this worksheet, you may be fined, be sentenced to jail, or both. **IMPORTANT NOTE – "WET" SIGNATURES ARE REQUIRED. DO NOT TYPE NAMES, USE IMAGES, MOUSE/TOUCHPAD DRAW SIGNATURES, ETC.**

Student Signature	Date
-------------------	------