



Professional Judgement

Through Professional Judgement (PJ), federal regulations allow the Financial Aid Office to adjust, on a case-by-case basis with adequate documentation, elements of the FAFSA. PJ adjustments are intended to provide a more accurate assessment of a student's ability to pay and federal aid eligibility. Students must first complete a FAFSA before submitting a Professional Judgment request.

Federal definitions of PJ circumstances:

- *Unusual Circumstances*: Refers to the conditions that justify an adjustment to a student's dependency status based on a unique situation (e.g., human trafficking, refugee or asylee status, parent abandonment, incarceration), more commonly referred to as a dependency override.
- *Special Circumstances*: Refers to the financial situations (loss of a job, etc.) that justify an adjustment to the data elements in the Cost of Attendance or in the Student Aid Index (SAI) calculation.

Please note, PJ adjustments do not guarantee an increase in federal aid eligibility. To request a Professional Judgment form, please contact the Financial Aid Office.

Unaccompanied Homeless Determination

For students who are unaccompanied and homeless **or** unaccompanied, self-supporting, and at risk of being homeless, please contact the Financial Aid Office to request the Unaccompanied Homeless Determination form.