



## Financial Aid: Fast Facts

**FAFSA forms open on October 1 of the preceding year.**

Helpful Hints:

- Use the IRS data retrieval in the FAFSA to electronically upload your prior-prior year tax information
- Check your Ferris e-mail regularly after completing the FAFSA for any missing financial aid requirements
- Financial Aid awards for continuing students will be available in May after the Spring semester grades have posted
- Financial Aid awards for incoming admitted students begin in January

### **When do I become an Independent Student for Financial Aid Purposes?**

When filing the FAFSA, most students are required to include parental information. A student becomes independent when one of the following changes occur:

- When a student turns 24
- When a student gets married
- If a student supports a dependent child
- If a student is a veteran
- If the student enrolls in a graduate program

Federal student aid programs are based on the concept that it is primarily your and your family's responsibility to pay for your education. Since a dependent student is assumed to have the support of parents, the parents' information has to be assessed along with the student's, in order to get a full picture of the family's financial strength. If you're a dependent student, it doesn't mean your parents are required to pay anything toward your education; this is just a way of looking at everyone in a consistent manner.

**\*\*Please note, a parent's refusal to pay or help pay for college expenses does not automatically qualify a student as independent for financial aid purposes.**

### **Guidelines for Including Parental information on the FAFSA:**

- If your legal parents are married to each other, answer the questions about both of them, regardless of whether your parents are of the same or opposite sex
- If your legal parents are not married to each other and live together, answer the questions about both of them, regardless of whether your parents are of the same or opposite sex
- If your legal parent was never married or is widowed, answer the questions about that parent
- If your parents are divorced or separated and don't live together, answer the questions about the parent with whom you have lived more during the past 12 months
- If you lived the same amount of time with each divorced or separated parent, answer questions about the parent who provided more financial support during the past 12 months or during the most recent 12 months that you actually received support from a parent
- If your legal parent whose information you are reporting is remarried, you must provide information about that stepparent as well.

**Questions?** Visit the KCAD Financial Aid office in the Student Services office on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor or call 616-451-2787.

KCAD FINANCIAL AID OFFICE EMAIL: [KCADFINAID@FERRIS.EDU](mailto:KCADFINAID@FERRIS.EDU)