

Job Loss and the FAFSA: Three Steps to Take When Your Family Finances Shift

If you have lost your job or your parent has lost theirs, your FAFSA might not tell the whole story – or the most current one – about your family’s financial situation.

Financial aid offices understand this, and they will work with you through this unsettling situation. You are not alone!

If this happens to you, follow these three steps to getting the most funding for college:

1. [File your FAFSA-NU School Code 003988.](#)
 - a. Import or use information from 2019 taxes as you would under normal circumstances.
 - b. The parent filing a FAFSA should list themselves as a “displaced worker” if they:
 - i. receive unemployment benefits due to being laid off or losing a job
 - ii. have been laid off or received a layoff notice from a job
 - iii. were self-employed but are now unemployed due to economic conditions

For more information on displaced worker status, [click here](#).

If you have already submitted the FAFSA, the process is the same: contact your college choices immediately and follow the steps they outline.

Your parents’ receiving unemployment does not impact your eligibility for federal financial aid.

2. Contact the school you plan to attend/schools to which you have been accepted and let them know that you have had a change in circumstances – ASAP. They will walk you through the process for having your aid package reviewed.

This is commonly called a “professional judgment” or “special consideration”.

3. Provide all the documents and information requested.

There will most likely be a form to fill out, and documentation to provide. Send it in as quickly as possible. Here is the link to the [Special Consideration Application](#).

We will carefully review your circumstances. When the appeal has been reviewed, we will send a communication to your email account on file.

Our [Financial Assistance Office](#) will work with you to ensure you have access to the resources you need to pay for college. Our goal is to make sure all qualified applicants can invest in an education at Neumann University.

If you have questions about financial aid, the FAFSA or encounter special financial circumstances your family is experiencing due to COVID, please call us at (610) 558-5521 or [email](#) us.