

# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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## Professional Judgment

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Professional Judgment refers to the school's authority to make adjustments, on a case-by-case basis, to information reported on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) so that the Department of Education can recalculate the Student Aid Index (SAI). The SAI is the number that the school uses to determine whether a student is eligible for need-based financial aid.

Eligibility for financial aid is determined by the FAFSA, which uses financial information from two years prior to estimate a household's current circumstances. The Office of Student Financial Services recognizes that households can experience changes in income or other finances that are not reflected in their information two years prior.

If a household has experienced a special circumstance (which refers to a loss of a job or change in income or other financial hardship or a change in marital status, etc.) or an unusual circumstance (which refers to a student's dependency status due to human trafficking, refugee or asylee status, parental abandonment, incarceration, etc.) which is more commonly referred to as a dependency override, they should contact the Office of Student Financial Services. The student can begin the process in the StudentForms (<https://lapu-pm.campuslogic.com/signin?auth=clsigin&clientid=a486774a-aa40-467f-86fe-082d21a931ea&productid=2cf72f8d-83d3-4dde-9d86-a90208b9d1fc&type=student&ctx=CA05CDCC231E884E846485416BE48AEF>) portal.

The student will be asked to explain "in detail" the nature of their circumstance and why they need Professional Judgment. Once the detailed explanation is reviewed by a Financial Aid Officer, any documentation that may be required will be requested at that time.