

Your eligibility for financial aid was originally calculated based on the information you provided on the 2025-2026 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA application is used to measure the financial strength of the household during the 2025-2026 academic year. The financial strength is determined by using the 2023 income. However, families experiencing changes in income or family situations not reflected on the 2023 tax return, may submit a Professional Judgment request if they have a special circumstance and would like the information reported on the 2025-2026 FAFSA to be re-evaluated.

INCOMPLETE REQUESTS CANNOT BE PROCESSED. Additional documentation may be required. A Professional Judgment request can take up to 30 business days to process.

A. STUDENT INFORMATION

Name (Print) _____ Panther ID _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____
 Zip Code _____ Phone # _____ E-mail _____

B. INDICATE THE REASON FOR YOUR REQUEST AND INCLUDE THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

If you are a dependent student, provide documentation for both you and your parent(s). If you are married, provide documentation for both you and your spouse. If you, your parent, or spouse did not file a 2023 and/or 2024 tax form, please submit an IRS Verification of Non-filing letter, if you have filed a tax extension, please submit tax filing extension documentation (form 4868).

The following documents are required for **ALL** Professional Judgment Requests:

Dependent Student	Independent Students
<input type="checkbox"/> Signed statement explaining reason for request	<input type="checkbox"/> Signed statement explaining reason for request
<input type="checkbox"/> 2023 and 2024 SIGNED student taxes with W-2's and applicable tax schedules (schedule 1,2,3)	<input type="checkbox"/> 2023 and 2024 SIGNED student taxes with W-2's and applicable tax schedules (schedule 1,2,3)
<input type="checkbox"/> 2023 and 2024 SIGNED parent taxes and W-2's and applicable tax schedules (schedule 1,2,3)	<input type="checkbox"/> 2023 and 2024 SIGNED spouse's taxes and W-2's and applicable tax schedules (schedule 1,2,3)

C. ADDITIONAL REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION (Check all that apply)

____ **A. Involuntary loss of employment or significant reduction of income/pay**

(Check all that apply)

[] Student [] Spouse [] Mother/Step-mother [] Father/Step-father

- If **recent change of employment** not reflected on 2023 tax return, upload letter of termination, and the most recent paycheck stub IF working for a new employer.
- If **loss of employment** not reflected on 2023 tax return, upload a copy of the unemployment benefits statement or letter of termination.

• Indicate the following amounts:

○ **Cash, savings, and checking:** Student/Spouse-\$_____ Parent-\$_____



2025-2026 Request for Professional Judgment

- o **Net real estate/investment Value:** Student/Spouse-\$_____ Parent-\$_____
- o **Net business/farm value:** Student/Spouse-\$_____ Parent-\$_____

____B. **Loss or change in the amount of child support, social security benefits or other benefits.**

(Check all that apply)

[] Student [] Spouse [] Mother/Step-mother [] Father/Step-father

- If **benefits are terminated**, provide documentation of the monthly amount that was being paid and include the date of the last payment in the detailed personal statement along with an official statement from the agency reflecting cancellation of benefits.
- If **benefits are reduced**, provide documentation of the original amount and the new amount. Include the date the original amount ended and the date the new amount began in the detailed personal statement along with an official statement from the agency reflecting the change/reduction of benefits.

____C. **Divorce or separation of parents or spouse:**

- Divorce Decree or
- Documentation of living at two separate addresses for at **least 6 months**. This may include drivers' licenses, mortgage statement, lease agreement, or utility bills.
- For **dependent students**, indicate which parent will be providing more than half of your financial support from July 1st, 2025, through June 30th, 2026 _____.

• Indicate the following amounts:

- o **Cash, savings, and checking:** Student/Spouse-\$_____ Parent-\$_____
- o **Net real estate/investment Value:** Student/Spouse-\$_____ Parent-\$_____
- o **Net business/farm value:** Student/Spouse-\$_____ Parent-\$_____

____D. **Death of parent(s) or spouse:**

(Check all that apply)

[] Student [] Spouse [] Mother/Step-mother [] Father/Step-father

- Death Certificate

____E. **Extraordinary medical expenses NOT COVERED BY INSURANCE:**

(Extraordinary medical expenses must exceed 11% of the income protection allowance and not be claimed as a deduction on the income tax return). **Only medical expenses PAID out of pocket are eligible for consideration.**

- 2023 and/or 2024 IRS 1040 Tax schedule A if you itemized medical expenses.
- 2023 and/or 2024 Receipts of **paid** medical or dental expenses, cancelled checks, or credit card statements.

____F. **Student change in marital status**

- Marriage certificate
- Include you and your spouse's 2023 income tax return, W-2 forms, and applicable tax schedules (1,2 and 3)

• Indicate the following amounts:

- o **Cash, savings, and checking:** Student-\$_____ Spouse-\$_____
- o **Net real estate/investment Value:** Student-\$_____ Spouse-\$_____
- o **Net business/farm value:** Student-\$_____ Spouse-\$_____

____ G. Other

If none of the above-listed conditions provided apply to your situation, please provide a written, signed statement explaining your special circumstance. You must submit supporting documentation to verify the condition and verification of all income. **Not all requests will qualify for an adjustment.**

D. FAMILY SIZE

list all the people in the household, including:

- Yourself, your spouse (if married), and your parents (if Dependent student). Exclude a parent who has died or is not living in the household because of separation or divorce.
- Other people living with you for which you provide more than half of their support and will continue to provide more than half of their support from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026 (**Independent students only**).
- Other people living with your parents for which they provide more than half of their support and will continue to provide more than half of their support from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026 (**Dependent students only**).
- **Unborn children should not be included in the family size.**

Write the name of all household members, age, and relationship to the student. If you need additional space, attach a separate page.

Full name of Family Member	Age	Relationship to student
		Yourself (student)

E. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Professional Judgment requests are reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and not every outcome will result in the adjustment of a student's financial aid eligibility.

A Financial Aid Administrator may re-evaluate a student's cost of attendance (COA) if the student has unforeseen expenses that exceed the average annual budget established by the university. In these instances, the student's eligibility for need-based awards may not change but the student may become eligible for additional loans once the COA is increased.

The decision of the Financial Aid administrator is final and cannot be appealed.



F. SIGNATURES

All of the information on this form is true to the best of my knowledge and I have attached the appropriate supporting documentation.

Student _____ Panther ID _____ Date _____

Spouse _____ Last 4 digits of S.S.# _____ Date _____

Mother/Step-mother _____ Last 4 digits of S.S.# _____ Date _____

Father/Step-father _____ Last 4 digits of S.S.# _____ Date _____

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

- 1) Login to your my.fiu.edu account
- 2) Click on the *Student Tools* tile
- 3) Click on the *Document Upload* tile
- 4) Select *Financial Aid, 2025-2026 aid year, and Professional Judgment* from the drop-down menu
- 5) Upload and submit