

More information is needed to process your FAFSA

Dear NSU Student:

The NSU Office of Financial Aid has received your 2025-2026 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) information. You have taken an important step toward planning for your financial future.

For question #8 on your FAFSA, you indicated that you will apply for a Direct Unsubsidized Loan only because your parents are refusing to provide their information. Your answer also indicates that you do not have “unusual circumstances” as defined by the FAFSA.

Before we can proceed with our review of your financial aid application, our office is required to confirm that:

- You do not have unusual circumstances, and
- Your parent(s) refuses to complete the FAFSA or does not provide any financial support to you now and in the future.

Depending on your response, you may be eligible for additional financial aid, including scholarships and grants that do not have to be repaid.

Please refer to our flowchart below to take one of three actions, depending on your situation:

Do you have *unusual circumstances*?

You or your parent(s) are incarcerated, and contact with them would pose a risk to you.
You have left home due to an abusive or threatening environment.
You have been abandoned by or estranged from your parents
You have refugee or asylee status and are separated from your parents, or your parents are displaced in a foreign country.
You are a victim of human trafficking.
You are otherwise unable to contact or locate your parents.

YES

ACTION #1:
[Complete the 2025-26 Professional Judgment Request.](#)

NO

Does your parent refuse to complete the FAFSA or cannot/will not provide financial support to you?

NO,
my parent is willing to complete the FAFSA or provides support.

ACTION #3:
Update your answer to question (apply for Direct Unsubsidized Loan only) from Yes to No.

Your parent must complete the parent portion of the FAFSA.

YES

ACTION #2:
[Complete the 2025-26 Request for Unsubsidized Loans Only Form](#)

Tip: Documentation from your parent or a teacher, counselor, court, or cleric is required documenting your parent's refusal to complete the FAFSA or to provide support.

Narrative Explanation of your Options. You must choose one of the three for your aid to be processed:

- **Determination of “Unusual Circumstances”**

“[Unusual circumstances](#)” as defined by the FAFSA are:

- You or your parent(s) are incarcerated, and contact with them would pose a risk to you.
- You left home due to an abusive or threatening environment.
- You are abandoned by or estranged from your parents
- You have refugee or asylee status and are separated from your parents, or your parents are displaced in a foreign country.
- You are a victim of human trafficking.
- You are otherwise unable to contact or locate your parents.

If any of these circumstances apply, you may qualify for additional financial aid.

Action #1: Unusual Circumstances Exist

To apply for additional aid by submitting proof of your unusual circumstances, complete the [2025-26 Professional Judgment Form](#). Please allow 3-4 weeks for a determination on your request.

- **Confirmation of Parent Refusal** (only needed if unusual circumstances do not apply)

The FAFSA gives you the option to apply for only a Direct Unsubsidized Loan if your parent is unwilling to provide information on the FAFSA. With this option, your file will not be reviewed for any other aid, such as federal and state scholarships and grants, even if you might qualify once your parent(s) provide the necessary information.

Action #2: My parent refuses to complete the FAFSA or cannot/will not provide support now or in the future

Complete a [Request for Unsubsidized Funds Only Form](#)

With this option, your parent or a third party (teacher, counselor, etc.) must provide a statement that your parent refuses to complete the FAFSA or cannot/will not support you financially.

Action #3: Chose this if Action #1 or #2 do not apply

Update your answer to question # 8 (Apply for Direct Unsubsidized Loan Only) from Yes to No.

[Access your existing FAFSA.](#)

Your parent must complete [the parent portion of the FAFSA](#) even if you don't live with your parent(s), your parent(s) are not paying your college expenses, or you are not claimed as a dependent on their taxes.

You may share the [Parent instructions](#) with your parent(s) for guidance.

Questions? We are here to help!

- finaid@nova.edu
- 800-806-3680 or (954) 262-3380
- [One-Stop Shop](#) (in person during hours of operation, no appointment necessary)
- [NSU Financial Aid Website](#)

More information on "Unusual Circumstances" is available at studentaid.gov.