2015-2016 FAFSA - Independent Appeal Renewal

*Only complete the FAFSA according to these instructions if you have been directed to do so by the ISU Office of Student Financial Aid*

1. **You will need to complete a 2015-2016 FAFSA.** The 2015-2016 FAFSA will be available beginning January 1st, 2015 at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Please note that the financial aid priority deadline to submit a FAFSA is March 1st, 2015. You are allowed to estimate income values if you have yet to complete your tax return.

2. Sign in as a “Returning User” and login with your student information.

3. Complete the **Student Demographic Information**.

4. Complete the **School Selection Summary**. The Federal School Code for Iowa State University is 001869.

5. Complete the **Dependency Determination** making sure that all questions are marked “No”.

6. The **Dependency Status Results** will indicate you are a dependent student. Mark the circle that indicates “I am unable to provide parent information” and click on “Next”. **[See Image 1 below]**

7. You will be brought to a **Special Circumstances** page. Mark the circle that indicates “I have a special circumstance and I am unable to provide parental information” and click “Next” **[See Image 2 below]**

8. You will be brought to an **Unable to Provide Parental Information** page. Mark the circle that indicates “I am unable to provide parental information and acknowledge that my FAFSA will be submitted without calculating an EFC” and click “Next”. **[See Image 3 below]**

9. Complete the **Student Financial Information** section.

10. Complete the **Sign and Submit** section.

You must also contact Nick Zika, Financial Aid Adviser, via email (nrzika@iastate.edu) and indicate you submitted your FAFSA following the steps listed above so it may be processed.
Based on your answers to the dependency status questions, you are considered a dependent student. This means you must provide parental information. Select "I will provide parental information" and click Next to continue to Parent Demographics.

If you have a special circumstance and are unable to provide parental information, under very limited circumstances, you may be able to submit your FAFSA without parental information. Select "I am unable to provide parental information" and click Next to get additional information.

- I am unable to provide parental information.

For dependent students, a special circumstance is a situation that exists between the student applicant and his or her parent(s) which prevents the student from providing parental information.

Select "I will provide parental information" to continue to Parent Demographics.

Select "I am unable to provide parental information" to get additional information about special circumstances.
Special Circumstances

Important: You told us that you think you have a special circumstance and are unable to provide parental information. Before we allow you to proceed and skip the parental section of your FAFSA we must advise you of the following:

Under Federal law to the extent your family is able, they are primarily responsible for paying for your college expenses. To determine how much your family can afford to pay towards your college expenses, we must collect your financial information and your parents' financial information.

However, Federal law allows for some exceptions, if you have a special circumstance. The following are examples of some special circumstances where you may submit your FAFSA without providing parental information:

- Your parents are incarcerated; or
- You have left home due to an abusive family environment; or
- You do not know where your parents are and are unable to contact them (and you have not been adopted).

But not all situations are considered a special circumstance. The following are situations that would not be considered a special circumstance:

- Your parents do not want to provide their information on your FAFSA; or
- Your parents refuse to contribute to your college expenses; or
- Your parents do not claim you as a dependent on their income taxes; or
- You do not live with your parents.

Now that you have reviewed the information above, select one of the following options and click Next to continue.

- I will provide parental information.
- I have a special circumstance and I am unable to provide parental information.
- I do not have a special circumstance but I am unable to provide parental information.

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Unable to Provide Parental Information

- Because you indicated that you have a special circumstance, any information about your parents that was provided on last year’s FAFSA will not be pre-filled.

You told us that you are unable to provide parental information.

Review the following to continue.

1. We will allow you to submit your FAFSA without parental information, however your FAFSA will not be considered complete.
2. Because your FAFSA is not considered complete, we will not calculate your Expected Family Contribution (EFC), which is the index used by colleges to determine how much student aid you are eligible to receive.
3. If you are approaching any deadlines for your state, college, or scholarship aid, you may want to contact your financial aid administrator before submitting your FAFSA without parental data.
4. Once you submit your FAFSA without parental data, you must follow up with the financial aid administrator at the college you plan to attend, in order to complete your FAFSA and receive an EFC. Also, note the following:
   - Under Federal law, only your financial aid administrator has the authority to decide whether or not you must provide parental information on your FAFSA.
   - You will have to provide documentation to verify your situation. Gather as much written evidence of your situation as you can. Written evidence may include court or law enforcement documents, letters from a clergy member, school counselor or social worker, and/or any other relevant data that explains your special circumstance.
   - After reviewing your circumstances carefully, your financial aid administrator will decide if you must provide parental information or if your circumstances allow you to proceed without providing parental data. Your financial aid administrator’s decision is final and cannot be appealed to Federal Student Aid.

Select one of the following options and click Next to continue.

- I will provide parental information
- I am unable to provide parental information and acknowledge that my FAFSA will be submitted without calculating an EFC