

Maryland Higher Education Commission
Data Dictionary

ELEMENT TITLE:

Dependency Status

DEFINITION: The federal definition of dependent or independent student status is used to determine whether the student is dependent upon his/her parents for support. The codes and definitions below are consistent with the federal definition in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

FORMAT: numeric – 1 digit

CODES:

- 0 = Dependency status is unknown
- 1 = Dependent: A student is financially dependent if the student did not meet any of the criteria for independent students.
- 2 = Independent: A student is considered independent if they meet one of the following criteria:
 - Is 24 or older as of 12/31/1979
 - Is a veteran;
 - Is an orphan or ward of the court;
 - Has legal dependents, other than a spouse;
 - Is married; or Is a graduate student

COMMENTS: When a student has unusual family circumstances, a financial aid administrator may use professional judgment to determine a student's dependency status.

RELATED TO: Expected Family Contribution (EFC), Family Income (AGI)

GLOSSARY:

SYSTEMS: FAIS

SYSNAME: DEPSTAT

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