



2026-2027 Special Circumstance Review Request

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) requires students and parents of dependent students to provide financial information from a prior year. The Financial Aid Office recognizes that special circumstances may arise that result in the reduction of a household's income or the addition of or increase in extraordinary expenses and that the financial information provided may no longer accurately reflect a household's current ability to finance a student's education. Students have the right to request a Special Circumstance Review if they believe one of these situations applies. The Financial Aid Office has the discretion to revise a student's FAFSA with more recent financial information or to revise a student's Cost of Attendance if a student's circumstance(s) fall within an approved category and the student provides sufficient documentation.

For **independent** students, extenuating circumstances generally apply to the student and/or student's spouse.

For **dependent** students, extenuating circumstances may apply to the student and/or the student's parent(s)/guardian(s).

Circumstances that **may** warrant an adjustment include (but are not limited to):

- Involuntary loss/change of employment
- Divorce/separation
- Death of a parent/spouse
- Disability of a student/parent/spouse
- Loss of benefits
- Unreimbursed medical expenses
- Declared states of emergency

Circumstances that **do not** warrant an adjustment include (but are not limited to):

- Parents refuse to contribute to student's education
- Parents are unwilling to provide information on the FAFSA or for verification purposes
- Parents do not claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes
- Student demonstrates total self-sufficiency
- Student and parents do not get along
- Student is a single parent or is pregnant
- Student/Parent/Spouse chooses to stop working or to work less
- Vacation expenses
- Standard living expenses
- Mortgage payments
- Car payments
- Other discretionary expenses

If you have questions about the definition of these circumstances or whether your circumstance(s) is eligible for a Special Circumstance Review, contact the Financial Aid Office at finaid@mccc.edu.

A student may only submit a Special Circumstance Review Request if they have satisfied all verification requirements for the award year. To make an adjustment to a student's financial information, the Financial Aid Office must obtain, at minimum, clear documentation of the extenuating circumstance(s) and all financial information that will be used to make any adjustments. Each Special Circumstance Review is different, and the Financial Aid Office may request additional documents at their discretion. Failure to provide requested documentation may result in a Special Circumstance Review Request being denied. The decision of the Financial Aid Office regarding a Special Circumstance Review Request is final and may not be appealed. The submission of a Special Circumstance Review Request does not guarantee approval. Approval of a Special Circumstance Review Request does not guarantee an increase in financial aid.



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Evaluation of a Special Circumstance Review Request will not begin until all requested documentation has been received by the Financial Aid Office and may take up to 3-4 weeks.

A. Student Information

Last Name

First Name

M.I.

MCCC Student ID Number

B. Student Explanation of Special Circumstance(s)

Provide a description of the extenuating circumstance(s) for which you are requesting this Special Circumstance Review (if you need more space, please continue on a separate page or electronic document and attach to this form):

C. Required Documentation

- Attach the following documents **unless they have already been submitted during standard verification**:
 - Completed 2026-27 Verification Worksheet
 - Copy of 2024 Federal Wage and Income Transcript for student/spouse and parent(s) (if dependent student)
 - Copy of 2024 Federal Tax Return Transcript for student/spouse and parent(s) (if dependent student) (if Federal Tax Information was not automatically transferred during FAFSA completion)
- Attach copy of the Federal Tax Return Transcript for the more recent year for which you want to use financial information for student/spouse (if independent student) and parent(s) (if dependent student)
- Select the reason that best describes your extenuating circumstance(s) and include **all** requested documentation (documents listed are for informational purposes only; the Financial Aid Office may request additional/different documents)
 - ☐ Unemployment: Date of Termination: _____
Person's Name: _____
Relationship to Student: _____
 - Copy of letter of termination/change of status from employer stating date and benefits received as a result of change
 - If receiving unemployment: copy of official statement of employment eligibility, documentation of date claim is filed/approved/ended, 1099-G form (if applicable)
 - ☐ Disability/Death: Date of Disability/Death: _____
Person's Name: _____
Relationship to Student: _____
 - Disability: copy of official statement of disability benefits, eligibility for worker's compensation, or eligibility for social security benefits
 - Death: copy of death certificate/obituary
 - ☐ Divorce/Separation: Date of Divorce/Separation: _____
Relationship to Student: _____
 - Divorce: copy of official divorce decree (if not addressed in decree, address custody, child support, alimony, etc. in written statement)
 - Separation: proof of separate address (driver's license, utility bill, signed lease)
 - ☐ Other: _____

A. Certification

By signing this form, I certify that all information reported on it and in all accompanying supporting documents is complete and correct. I understand that information contained in this form may be released to the New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA).

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature (Dependent Student Only)

Date

WARNING: If you purposely give false or misleading information on this worksheet, you may be fined, be sentenced to jail, or both.