

# JOB LOSS AND THE FAFSA



University of Wisconsin  
Stevens Point

STEVENS POINT • MARSHFIELD • WAUSAU

## Three Steps to Take When Your Family Finances Shift

If you have lost your job or your parent has lost theirs, your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) might not tell the whole story – or the most current one – about your family's financial situation.

We understand it can be hard and our financial aid team will work with you through this unsettling situation. You're not alone!

If this happens to you, follow these three steps to getting the most funding for college:

### 1. [File your FAFSA.](#)

- Use the IRS Data Retrieval tool to import or use information from 2019 taxes as you would under normal circumstances.
- The parent filing a FAFSA should list themselves as a "displaced worker" if they:
  1. receive unemployment benefits due to being laid off or losing a job
  2. have been laid off or received a layoff notice from a job
  3. were self-employed but are now unemployed due to economic conditions

For more information on displaced worker status, [click here](#).

If you've already submitted the FAFSA, the process is similar: contact your college immediately and follow the steps they outline.

*Your parents' receiving unemployment may not impact your eligibility for federal financial aid.*

### 2. Contact the school you plan to attend/schools to which you've been accepted and let them know that you've had a change in circumstances – ASAP. They'll let you know what their process is for having your aid package reviewed.

This is commonly called a "professional judgment," "financial aid appeal," or "special circumstances appeal."

[Here's how we handle special circumstances.](#)

### 3. Be sure to provide all the documents and information that is requested.

There will most likely be a form to fill out, and documentation to provide. Depending on the time of year, the form might not yet be available, but once it is, complete it as quickly as possible.

The number one thing to keep in mind if your family experiences a change in financial situation or other unique circumstances is to contact your college's financial aid office. They'll know just what to do and will help you in every way they can. Our [Office of Financial Aid and Veteran Services](#) has reviewed many appeals within our family of students, and we understand a loss of income may be causing you anxiety. We are here to guide you through the process. Please contact us with questions at 715-346-4771 or [email us](#).

Don't forget to list our Federal School Code (003924) on your FAFSA.

