

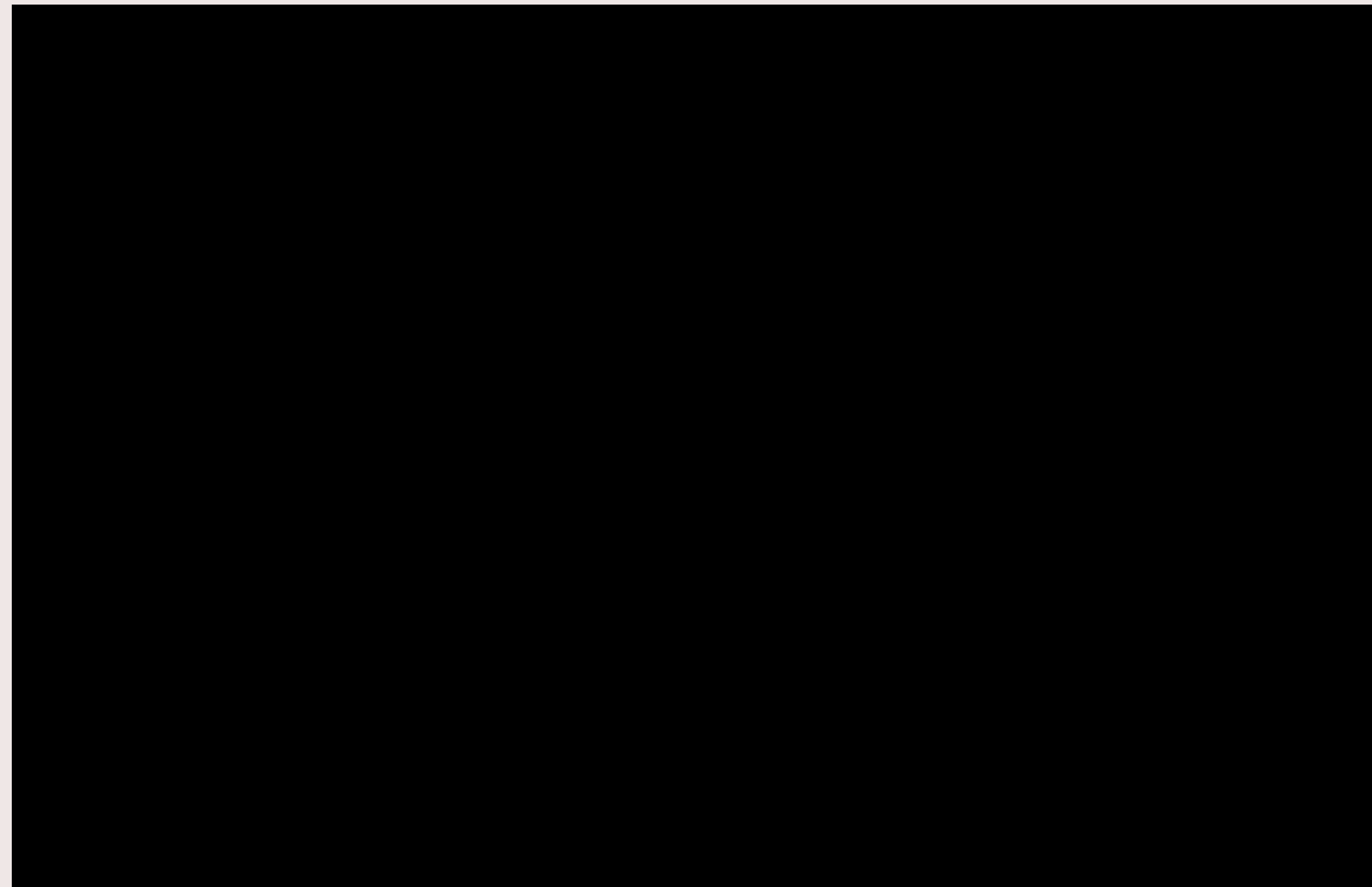
How To Modify Your Financial Aid (FAFSA/WASFA): Whatcom Community College



Petition For Special Circumstances:

Whatcom Community College offers student's the ability to appeal their financial aid award through a form offered online.

Link: <https://www.whatcom.edu/get-started/financial-aid/forms>



*Video example

Whatcom
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Office of Financial Aid
2019-2020 Petition for Special Circumstances

If you have already completed your 2019-20 financial aid application (FAFSA) process with our office but feel it doesn't reflect your (or your family's) circumstances, you may wish to submit this request for a review of your financial aid eligibility. If this petition is approved, your eligibility will be recalculated with the federal processor (FAFSA). Please note that a review doesn't **always result in increased aid**. Please note that the purpose of a Special Circumstance Petition is to see if you are eligible for a lower Expected Family Contribution (EFC). **Allow a minimum of 8 weeks for review and notification.**

STUDENT INFORMATION

Student Name _____ Social Security Number _____
Phone Number _____ E-mail Address _____

Special circumstance is for (check all that apply): Student Student's Spouse (if married) Parent(s)

Special circumstance is regarding (check all that apply):

Reduced income for school year Medical/Dental expenses not covered by insurance
 Unemployment Change in marital status (only applies to separation or divorce after FAFSA was filed)
 Parent in college Other: _____

PETITION REQUIREMENTS

Submit the following with this form:

A signed letter of explanation detailing the circumstances. Be thorough to avoid delays.

Supporting documentation

- If petition is due to loss of employment, attach unemployment benefit document or if not receiving unemployment benefits; include last day worked, severance pay amount and weekly unemployment amount.
- If student or a family member chose to quit a job, the reason for doing so must be included in the statement.
- If petition is due to reduced hours of work, note the new hourly rate & number of hours worked each week, as well as a recent pay stub.
- If the special circumstance was the receipt of a one-time benefit in 2017 that won't be repeated in 2018 (such as receiving an inheritance, cash taken from 401K, etc.), a detailed itemization of how the funds were spent must be included in the explanation.
- If the special circumstance is medical/dental expense not covered by insurance, attach an itemized list of all expenses, insurance payments and net amounts after insurance.

Copies of 2018 tax return for student (spouse or parent, if applicable). For non-tax filers, we will accept 2018 W-2's, and/or unemployment benefits statements.

CERTIFICATION

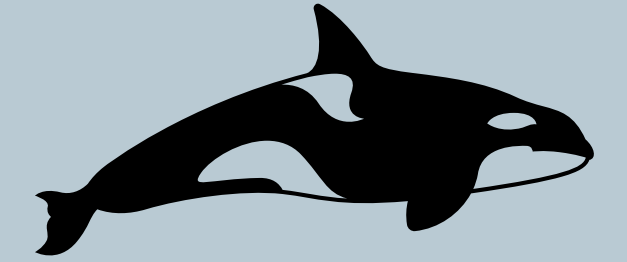
I certify that the information I have provided on this petition and in my personal statement is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Student Signature _____ Date _____
Spouse's Signature _____ Date _____
Parent's Signature _____ Date _____

OFFICE USE ONLY

CH	Received:
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Student Information



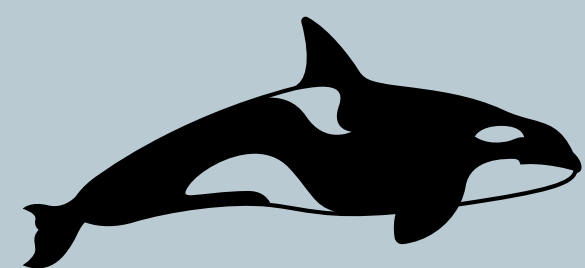
***As listed on your
FAFSA**



***Double check**



STUDENT INFORMATION	
Student Name	Social Security Number
Phone Number	E-mail Address



Special Circumstances

Special circumstance is for (check all that apply): Student Student's Spouse (if married) Parent(s)

Special circumstance is regarding (check all that apply):

- Reduced income for school year Medical/Dental expenses not covered by insurance
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Medical/Dental expenses not covered by insurances:

- There are high unreimbursed medical/dental expenses not covered by the individual's insurance

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Reduced income for school year:

- The family is concerned that it will not be able to meet its required contribution
 - Ex. Due to COVID-19
- The previous year's income was affected by a significant one-time event that aren't typical of the family's ability to meet its required contribution
 - Ex. inheritance, cashing in 401k, an unusually high paid bonus for the year
- A parent dies, is incarcerated, becomes disabled, or is institutionalized
- Social security benefits or child support ceases when the child reaches the age of majority

Special Circumstances

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Unemployment:

- A parent loses a job or experiences a salary reduction
- A parent's income varies annually due to the volatility of their job
- Ex. Seasonal job: agriculture, construction, warehouse job, etc.

Other:

- A member of the family is seriously ill
- The family suffers a natural or financial disaster
 - Ex. COVID-19, landslide
- There are high dependent-care costs related to a special needs individual or elderly grandparent

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Special circumstance is regarding (check all that apply):

- Reduced income for school year Medical/Dental expenses not covered by insurance
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What Does Not Qualify As A Special Circumstance(s):

Although examples of special circumstances aren't exhausted, there are some cases that are not ground for appeal. Such as:

- **The student parent(s) refuse to complete the FAFSA or any verification processes**
- **The student demonstrating total self-sufficiency (paying their own bills, living on their own, etc.)**
- **The student's parents do not claim the student as dependent on taxes**
- **The students parents refuse to help pay for their college education**

Petition Requirements

Tips for the *letter of explanation*:

- Include your name, student number (if given), birthday
 - Don't include your social security
- How circumstances have changed
 - If you or your parent lost a job
 - Date of the last time you or a parent had worked
 - How it has impacted your income or ability to pay for collage
 - If a family member has fallen ill

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Examples:

- “Due to losing my job, my income has dropped \$4,000 since my last tax return”
- “My father, who will be paying for my education, was diagnosed with cancer last month, and will be completing chemotherapy over the next 6 months.”
- Website
Resource: <https://www.collegechoice.net/admissions/the-fafsa-appeal/>