



Unaccompanied Homeless Youth - Institutional Determination

81

Student's Full Name

Student's UGA ID

POLICY: A student can be considered an independent student for Federal Financial Aid purposes on the Free Application for Federal Student Financial Aid (FAFSA) if they are determined to be an unaccompanied youth who is homeless OR an Unaccompanied youth who is self-supporting and at risk of being homeless. Dated determinations (based on the academic year FAFSA) can be made by a student's high school or school district homeless liaison; the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program. Institutional determinations can also be made, and at UGA these institutional determinations are made by Student Care & Outreach (SCO) on a case-by-case basis. The following form is needed by the UGA Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA) to document an institutional determination made by SCO for the 2025-26 FAFSA. Whether any institutional determination is made is at the sole discretion of SCO and cannot be appealed beyond SCO. See 'RESOURCE' section below for definitions and additional context from the U.S. Department of Education regarding institutional determinations.

DIRECTIONS:

1. SCO will complete this form by indicating the institutional determination, providing context of the institutional determination, and signing/dating the form
2. SCO will Email the completed form to the OSFA PJ Email Account > osfapj@uga.edu

RESOURCE

Source > 2025-26 Federal Student Aid Handbook > Application and Verification Guide > Chapter 5

Homeless youth definitions:

At risk of being homeless - when a student's housing may cease to be fixed, regular, and adequate, for example, a student who is being evicted and has been unable to find fixed, regular and adequate housing

Homeless - lacking fixed, regular and adequate housing

Self-supporting- when a student pays for his or her own living expenses, including fixed, regular and adequate housing

Unaccompanied - when a student is not living in the physical custody of a parent or guardian

Housing

Fixed - stationary, permanent, and not subject to change

Regular - used on a predictable, routine or consistent basis

Adequate - sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in the home

Homeless is broader than just living "on the street." It includes living:

- With other people temporarily because they had nowhere else to go
- In substandard housing (if it doesn't meet local building codes or the utilities are turned off, it is generally not adequate)
- In emergency or transitional shelters, for example, trailers provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency after disasters
- In motels, campgrounds, cars, parks, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, or any public or private place not designed for humans to live in
- In the school dormitory if the student would otherwise be homeless

A student living in any of these situations and fleeing an abusive parent may be considered homeless even if the parent would provide support and a place to live.



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UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH DETERMINATION

- ☐ APPROVED > Unaccompanied youth who is homeless
- ☐ APPROVED > Unaccompanied youth who is self-supporting and at risk of being homeless
- ☐ DENIED

The following section is to document the context of the Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Institutional Determination (student situation, any supporting documentation received, and when interview(s) was conducted, etc.).

UGA Student Care and Outreach Signature

Date