

# EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY

FINANCIAL AID, SCHOLARSHIPS & VETERANS SERVICES

## Am I Dependent or Independent for 2026-2027

Campus Box 4038, 1 Kellogg Circle, Emporia, KS 66801

Phone: (620) 341-5453

Fax: (620) 772-9205

finaid@emporia.edu

Were you born before January 1, 2003?	YES	NO
As of today, are you married? (Answer YES if you are separated but not divorced)	YES	NO
At the beginning of the 2026–27 school year, will you be enrolled in a master’s or doctorate program (such as M.A., MBA, M.D., J.D., Ph.D., Ed.D., graduate certificate, etc.)?	YES	NO
Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces for purposes other than training? (If you are National Guard or Reserves enlistee, are you on active duty for other than state or training purposes?)	YES	NO
Are you a veteran of the U.S. armed forces?*	YES	NO
Do you have children or other people (excluding your spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you now and between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027?	YES	NO
At any time since you turned age 13, were you an orphan (no living biological or adoptive parent)?	YES	NO
At any time since you turned age 13, were you a ward of the court?	YES	NO
At any time since you turned age 13, were you in <a href="#">foster care</a> ?	YES	NO
Are you or were you a legally <a href="#">emancipated minor</a> , as determined by a court in your state of residence?	YES	NO
Are you or were you in a legal guardianship with someone other than your parent or stepparent, as determined by a court in your state of residence?	YES	NO
At any time on or after July 1, 2025, were you unaccompanied and either (1) homeless or (2) self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?***	YES	NO

\*Answer “Yes” (you are a veteran) if you (1) have engaged in active duty in the U.S. armed forces (army, marine, naval, air, or space service); served full-time as a Reservist or member of the National Guard or were called to federal active duty by presidential duty for a purpose other than training; or served on active duty for training or inactive duty for training in the U.S. armed forces and were disabled from injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty; and (2) were released under a condition other than dishonorable. Also answer “Yes” if you are not a veteran now but will be one by June 30, 2027.

\*Answer “No” (you are not a veteran) if you (1) have never engaged in active duty in the U.S. armed forces; (2) are currently a Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) student, a cadet, or midshipman at a service academy; (3) are currently serving in the U.S. armed forces and will continue to serve through June 30, 2027; or (4) were engaged in active duty in the U.S. armed forces but released under dishonorable conditions. Also answer “No” if you are currently serving in the U.S. armed forces and will continue to serve through June 30, 2027.

\*\*\*You’ll be allowed to fill out the FAFSA form as an independent student if you indicate that you are unaccompanied and homeless or at risk of being homeless on the FAFSA form. If you don’t have a determination from an individual at an eligible agency, the financial aid office at your college or career school is required to make a determination of your status based on a written statement from you or a documented interview with you. Contact your school’s financial aid office to complete this process. An individual at an eligible agency includes one of the following:

- your high school or district homeless liaison or designee
- the director or designee of an emergency or transitional shelter, street outreach program, homeless youth drop-in center, or another program serving those experiencing homelessness
- the director or designee of a project supported by a federal TRIO program or a Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) grant
- a financial aid administrator

If you answered YES to any of the questions above, then for federal student aid purposes, you are considered to be an independent student and you will not have to provide parental data on the FAFSA.

If you answered NO to every question above, then for federal student aid purposes, you are considered to be a dependent student and you will need to provide parental data on the FAFSA.

If you have no contact with your parents and don’t know where they live, you should discuss your situation with our office.