Email to Financial Aid Directors
Date: March 19, 2026

Subject: Dependency Status Verification Requests

In my presentation at the MASFAA Fall Training in November and again in an email I sent on January 22, 2026, I noted that SFA would be requesting the institution's help with verifying dependency status for students with conflicting information. We have added a number of Dependency Status Verification Requests in MAAPP, but we have received very few responses.

Please ensure that you or someone on your team is regularly checking the MAAPP dashboard and responding to these requests (in addition to grade and enrollment verification and FAITH award information requests). I have pasted below a detailed description of what is needed.

Thank you for your assistance with this, and don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Thanks!
Jennifer

Request for Dependency Status Verification – The Office often receives conflicting information on the student's FAFSA and MAAPP related to the student's dependency status. In the past, we have reached out to the institution via email to inquire about the dependency status as determined by the institution. Rather than emailing the institution, we have added a place in MAAPP for the institution to provide this information when needed. If SFA receives conflicting information, a code will be placed on the student's account to trigger a "Dependency Status Verification Request" from the institution. The request will appear in MAAPP.

You can see here, this institution has 3 requests.

If you click on the link icon in the top right corner of the metric, you will be taken to a list of the students.

Then, if you click on a student's name, you will go to the student's dashboard.

From here, you can see the "Dependency Status Verification" listed under Missing Documents (green circle). You can also see a blue link to "Update Dependency Status" (red circle). If you click on that, you will get a pop-up option. The institution is asked to simply select "Dependent" or "Independent" to let SFA know how the institution has categorized each student. The institution is not expected to perform any type of verification but to simply notify SFA of the student's status according to the institution's records. The Dependency Status field has also been added to the report export document.

Thanks!
Jennifer

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