

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.

The screenshot shows the MAPP Dashboard for Jennifer Rogers, Financial Aid Administrator. The dashboard includes a sidebar with navigation links: Dashboard, Students, Awards, Reports, Activity Log, Participation Agreement, and Settings. The main content area displays several metrics:

- 615 2026-2027 COMPLETED MAAPP APPLICATIONS
- 536 2026-2027 STUDENTS WITH MISSING DOCUMENTS
- 0 ENROLLMENT VERIFICATION REQUESTS (2026-2027)
- 0 GRADE VERIFICATION REQUESTS (2026-2027)
- 0 FAITH AWARD INFORMATION REQUESTS (2026-2027)
- 3 DEPENDENCY STATUS VERIFICATION REQUESTS** (2026-2027, 2025-2026)
- 0 AWARDS BY PROGRAM: TOTAL (2026-2027, All Program Types)
- \$0.00 AWARDS BY PROGRAM: TOTAL PAID AMOUNTS (2026-2027, All Program Types)
- \$0.00 AWARDS BY PROGRAM: TOTAL OFFERED AMOUNTS (2026-2027, All Program Types)

The 'DEPENDENCY STATUS VERIFICATION REQUESTS' metric is circled in red, indicating 3 requests for the 2026-2027 academic year.

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.

The screenshot shows the MAPP Institution Report page for Jennifer Rogers, Financial Aid Administrator. The page includes a sidebar with navigation links: Dashboard, Students, Awards, Reports, Activity Log, Participation Agreement, and Settings. The main content area displays a search form and a table of student data.

Search Form:

- Search: Search Reports
- SSN Last Four: SSN
- Date of Birth: MM/DD/YYYY
- MAAPP Start Date: MM/DD/YYYY
- MAAPP End Date: MM/DD/YYYY
- Aid Year: 2026-2027
- Missing Document Type: Dependency Status Verification
- Application Type: Select Application Type
- Buttons: Reset, Search

Table:

Aid Year	ID	Name	SSN Last Four	Student Institution ID	Date of Birth	Institution Name	MAAPP Date	Other Docs	FAFSA Status
2026-2027	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	N/A	01/01/2006	Hinds Community College	10/03/2025	Still Needed	Still Needed
2026-2027	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	N/A	11/22/2007	Hinds Community College	10/03/2025	Still Needed	Still Needed
2026-2027	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	N/A	10/06/1994	Hinds Community College	10/03/2025	Received	Not Applicable

Showing 3 of 3 Results

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

The screenshot shows the MAAPP (Mississippi Aid Application) interface. On the left is a navigation menu with options: Dashboard, Students, Awards, Reports, Activity Log, Participation Agreement, and Settings. The main header shows the user is Jennifer Rogers, Financial Aid Administrator, with a last login of 10/3/2025 at 8:11 AM. The page title is 'Student Details' for a student with DOB 1/1/2006. Below the title are tabs for Overview, Applicant, Academic, FERPA, Documents, Awards, Enrollment, Grades, Package, and Messages. A row of buttons includes 'Update Enrollment Information', 'Update Grade Information', 'Update Award Package', and 'Update Dependency Status' (circled in red). The 'MILESTONES' section shows 'MAAPP Submitted on 10/3/2025' and 'Program(s) Applied For: Undergraduate Grants'. The 'MISSING DOCUMENTS' section lists several items, with 'Dependency Status Verification' circled in green. Other items include FAESA, Parent's MS Driver's License, ACT Scores, Certified Core Curriculum, and Electronic High School Grade Verification, all marked as 'Still Needed'. A 'RECENT MESSAGES' section is at the bottom.

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.

This screenshot shows the same MAAPP interface as the previous one, but with a 'Dependency Status Verification Request' pop-up window open. The pop-up contains the following text: 'The Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid requested documentation of dependency status from the following student. The documentation received was either conflicting or inconclusive. Please designate the dependency status determined by the institution.' Below this is a form for 'Student Information' with fields for Name, SSN Last Four, and Date of Birth (01/01/2006). At the bottom of the pop-up are three buttons: 'Cancel', 'Dependent', and 'Independent'. The background dashboard is dimmed, showing the same 'Update Dependency Status' button and 'MISSING DOCUMENTS' section.

Thanks!
Jennifer



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