

# Whitworth University

## Special Circumstance Information for 2012-13

Whitworth understands that families and students may find it necessary to request a review of special circumstances regarding their financial situation that cannot be indicated on the FAFSA. When appropriate, the financial aid office will make adjustments to the FAFSA for special circumstances. Special circumstances do not guarantee that an increase in financial aid will be available. Information regarding special circumstances should be submitted directly to the financial aid office for review. Do not send the information with the FAFSA; the processor will destroy it. Also, do not update the FAFSA data to try and compensate for special circumstances. If you are applying to more than one college or university, each may handle special circumstances differently. Documentation requirements may vary.

Special circumstances are seen as circumstances imposed on the family or student that are out of their control. They do not include consumer debt, home debt, car debt, prior school debt or expenses related to personal choice. In addition, decreases in assets due to changes in the stock market are not considered a special circumstance. The value of a family's assets is reported as of the day the FAFSA is signed. This information can be corrected in the case of mistakes on the FAFSA, but it cannot be updated due to changes in asset values.

The following circumstances can be considered for adjustments. Specific documentation is required in order for the financial aid office to review the request.

**Loss of income** due to job loss, retirement, change in job, decrease in pay, one-time income received (prior year), death of a wage earner, or divorce/separation.

**Private tuition costs for elementary or secondary schools** paid for other dependents in the student's household.

**A parent attending college** can be considered a financial burden if it is determined that the attendance is necessary for employment or retraining. The parent must be working towards a degree or certificate required for continued employment.

**Extraordinary expenses** that are not covered by insurance, such as medical expenses that exceed 7.5 percent of the family's or the student's adjusted gross income.

Please complete the 2012-13 Special Circumstances Request Form found on our forms web page at: <http://www.whitworth.edu/Administration/FinancialAid/Forms/Index.htm>, and submit the documentation indicated on the form to the Whitworth Financial Aid Office. **Allow 15 business days for processing.**

We do our best to assist families and students with special circumstances. A financial aid advisor is available to discuss your situation. Please feel free to call us for assistance at 800.533.4668 or 509.777.3215.