

Whitworth University

Special Circumstance Information

Whitworth understands that families and students may need 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. The existence of special circumstances does 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 those imposed on a family or student that are out of the individual's 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, though this list is not exhaustive. 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. If any of these events take place, please contact the Whitworth Financial Aid Office.

Private tuition costs paid elementary or secondary schools 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 toward a degree or certificate required for continued employment.

Extraordinary expenses that are not covered by insurance.

Please complete the Special Circumstances Request Form found on our forms webpage at <http://www.whitworth.edu/Administration/FinancialAid/Forms/Index.htm>, and submit the required 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.