



FINANCIAL AID OFFICE
 600 Forbes Avenue
 Pittsburgh, PA 15282-0299
 Phone: 412-396-6607
 Fax: 412-396-5284
duq.edu/admissions-and-aid

2024-2025 Number in College Professional Judgement Request Form

Professional Judgment-Number of Household Members in College

A student/parent may request a Professional Judgment Evaluation if additional family members in college creates a financial hardship that can be documented. Adjustments to financial data elements or cost of attendance (COA) will determine the impact of the professional judgment (PJ).

The FAFSA Simplification Act contained intentional and significant changes to the Federal Methodology (FM) formula for determining Title IV federal student aid eligibility through the FAFSA. One of the changes is the removal of taking into account the number of the applicant’s family members who are enrolled in college.

Under Section 479A of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), as amended, [20 USC 1087TT], a financial aid administrator (FAA) may exercise their PJ authority to make adjustments to the data elements on the FAFSA used to calculate the SAI or by adjusting a student’s COA. As with other PJ decisions, the FAA must make the decision on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the student's/parent's special circumstances and using adequate documentation.

If the Professional Judgment is approved, the institution will calculate the other family member's COA minus any grants or scholarships and then subtract that amount from the student's AGI. Upon receipt of the corrected ISIR, any additional aid will be awarded based on the updated SAI.

To request such a Professional Judgment, the student must submit all of the following documentation:

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | Number of Dependents in College | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation required from additional college: • Proof of current enrollment (class schedule, enrollment agreement, and/or attendance records) • Proof of students Cost of Attendance • Proof of Award Letter to reflect all awarded Federal Grants, Scholarships, and Institutional Aid • Proof of denied Parent PLUS Loan, if applicable • Number in College PJ Request Form |
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AGI Recalculation Formula:
(to be completed by Office of Financial Aid)

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Students Cost of Attendance | \$ |
| - Federal Pell Grant | \$ |
| - Federal SEOG | \$ |
| - Institutional Grants/Scholarships | \$ |
| - Donor Scholarships | \$ |
| - 3rd Party Scholarships | \$ |
| - Additional Grants/Scholarships Awarded | \$ |
| = Total | \$ |

Please be advised that while the statute does list number in college as an example of a special circumstance, the statute also says those special circumstances "shall be conditions that differentiate an individual student from a group of students rather than conditions that exist across a group of students..." This means, the Office of Financial Aid cannot adjust for the number in college across-the-board for all students who report other family members in college on the FAFSA; therefore, there is no guarantee that the Professional Judgment application will be approved, nor is there any guarantee that a Professional Judgment will have any impact to a student's SAI or Financial Aid eligibility.

| Student Certification | | | |
|--|-------|----------|--------|
| I/We certify that the information provided on this form as well as all attached supporting documentation is accurate and complete as of this date. I/We understand that the request for a financial aid re-evaluation is not guaranteed to result in a change to my financial aid eligibility and does not release me from payment of any balance due on my student account. | | | |
| Student Signature: | | Date: | |
| | | | |
| Parent Signature: | | Date: | |
| | | | |
| Office of Financial Aid | | | |
| Director: | Date: | Approved | Denied |
| | | | |