

Special Financial Circumstances Request

Academic year 2026-2027

What this form is for

The 2026-2027 FAFSA uses 2024 financial information. If your family's current financial situation is significantly different from the information used on your FAFSA, Rider University may review your circumstances and determine whether a professional judgment adjustment is appropriate. Reviews are made case by case and must be supported by adequate documentation. Submitting this request does not guarantee a change to your Student Aid Index (SAI), Federal Pell Grant eligibility, or financial aid offer.

How to submit

Submit this form and supporting documentation through the One Stop Documents Upload, located on the Student Finances tile in myRider. Questions may be directed to the One Stop Services at onestop@rider.edu or 609-896-5360, Bart Luedeke Center, 1st floor. Rider's published 2026-2027 deadline for this request is April 1, 2027. If your SAI is already -1500 and your request is only based on lower income, contact One Stop before completing this form because the SAI cannot be reduced below -1500.

Student information

Student Name: _____	Bronc ID: _____
Rider Email: _____	Phone: _____

1. Circumstance requiring review

Check all that apply. The examples below are not an exhaustive list. Rider may consider other documented circumstances that significantly affect your ability to pay for college.

☐ Loss of employment or significant reduction in wages/hours	☐ Loss or significant reduction of unemployment, disability, child support, or other income/benefits
☐ Retirement or other major change in employment status	☐ Death of a parent or spouse
☐ Divorce or separation after the FAFSA was filed	☐ One-time or nonrecurring income that does not reflect current ability to pay
☐ Significant change in assets or loss of assets	☐ Unreimbursed medical, dental, or nursing home expenses
☐ Elementary or secondary school tuition expenses	☐ Additional family member(s) enrolled in college or another postsecondary credential program
☐ Unusually high child or dependent care expenses	☐ Severe disability of the student or a member of the household that affects family finances
☐ Change in housing or family circumstances that affects ability to pay, excluding a homeless youth status request	☐ Other significant change in family income, assets, or financial circumstances

Person(s) affected: ☐ Student ☐ Spouse ☐ Parent 1 ☐ Parent 2 ☐ Other: _____

Date the circumstance began or changed: _____

2. Explain what changed

Describe what happened, when it happened, and how it changed your family's ability to pay for college. Include dates and dollar amounts when possible. Attach an additional page if needed.

3. Income worksheet, complete for income-related requests

Complete a worksheet for each person whose income changed. Report actual 2025 income and total 2026 income. If 2026 has not ended when you submit this form, provide your best reasonable estimate of total 2026 income. For 2026, include income already received plus income you reasonably expect to receive. Rider will compare these amounts with the 2024 FAFSA/IRS information already on file.

Person 1: _____ **Relationship to student:** _____

Income source	2025 actual	2026 actual and estimated
Wages, salaries, tips	\$ _____	\$ _____
Unemployment benefits	\$ _____	\$ _____
Severance or termination pay	\$ _____	\$ _____
Taxable retirement/pension income	\$ _____	\$ _____
Other taxable income	\$ _____	\$ _____
Untaxed/replacement income relevant to this request	\$ _____	\$ _____
TOTAL	\$ _____	\$ _____

Person 2: _____ **Relationship to student:** _____

Income source	2025 actual	2026 actual and estimated
Wages, salaries, tips	\$ _____	\$ _____
Unemployment benefits	\$ _____	\$ _____
Severance or termination pay	\$ _____	\$ _____
Taxable retirement/pension income	\$ _____	\$ _____
Other taxable income	\$ _____	\$ _____
Untaxed/replacement income relevant to this request	\$ _____	\$ _____
TOTAL	\$ _____	\$ _____

If the 2026 amounts are estimated, explain the basis for your estimate:

4. Supporting documentation

Submit documents that support your specific circumstance. You do not need every item listed below. Rider may request additional information if needed to complete the review. Do not submit original documents.

Circumstance	Examples of helpful documentation
Employment loss or reduced income	Employer notice or other evidence of job loss/reduced hours, final pay stub, most recent pay stub if re-employed, unemployment or severance statement, and other records showing the change.
Loss/reduction of benefits or other income	Benefit award/termination notice, child support documentation, disability payment statement, or other records showing the prior and current amounts.
Divorce or separation	Divorce decree, separation agreement, or other documentation showing the change in marital/household status; documentation of support received or paid when relevant.
Death of parent or spouse	Death certificate, obituary, or other reliable documentation; current income information for the surviving household.
One-time/nonrecurring income	Tax form or statement identifying the income, amount and date received, and an explanation or documentation showing why the income is not expected to recur.
Asset change or loss	Statements showing the asset before and after the change, and documentation explaining the event that caused the change or loss.
Medical, dental, or nursing home expenses	Provider or insurance statements and proof of unreimbursed amounts paid or expected to be paid. Schedule A may be submitted if applicable, but itemizing deductions is not required.
K-12 tuition or dependent care	School tuition statement or dependent-care provider statement/contract showing the amount and period covered.
Additional family member in college	Enrollment documentation if Rider cannot verify the enrollment through available records.
Severe disability or other circumstance	Documentation showing the financial impact of the circumstance. A detailed diagnosis is not required unless necessary to establish the expense or financial impact.
Other	Any reliable documentation that supports the circumstances described in your statement.

5. Student certification

I certify that the information and documentation submitted with this request are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that Rider University may request additional information, that the review is case specific, and that approval may not result in additional financial aid. I understand that Rider must resolve conflicting information before making an adjustment and that any approved federal professional judgment adjustment applies only at Rider University.

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

(if parent information is included in this request)

6. To be completed by Rider University's Office of Financial Aid

Date complete request received	_____
Verification status	☐ Not selected ☐ Selected, completed on _____ ☐ N/A to removed data
Conflicting information	☐ None identified ☐ Resolved, date _____
Documentation reviewed	_____
Decision	☐ Approved ☐ Denied ☐ No change in eligibility
Adjustment type	☐ SAI data ☐ Pell eligibility data ☐ Other: _____
FAA adjustment / ISIR	FAA Adjustment flag: ☐ Yes ☐ N/A New ISIR transaction #: _____
Student notified	Date: _____ Method: _____
Reviewer	Name/Initials: _____ Date: _____

Adjustment detail and rationale:

FAFSA/Pell data element	Original value	Adjusted value	Reason / documentation

FAA rationale, including reason for approval/denial and how the adjustment relates to the student's documented circumstances:
