

Change in Student's Marital Status 2025-2026 Appeal



Students whose marital status changes (e.g. get married or divorced) after submitting their FAFSA may submit this appeal. **The deadline for submitting this form is the end of the 2025-2026 term in which you were last enrolled.** Completion of this appeal **does not** guarantee approval of your request. (This form is only for students. Parents of dependent students whose marital status changes after filing FAFSA should contact the financial aid office.) Generally, a student cannot update information that was correct as of the date that the application was signed because the FAFSA is considered to be a “snapshot” of the family’s financial situation as of that date. An update may occur only if a change in marital status is deemed necessary to address an iniquity or to reflect the applicant’s ability to pay. It is up to the school’s discretion to make this change. Please complete the form below:

Student Name: _____ Bethel ID #: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Have you already completed your 2025-26 FAFSA? (please check yes or no)

No, I have not yet completed a FAFSA for 2025-26.



If you are considering getting married (or changing marital status) and have not yet completed your 2025-2026 FAFSA, be sure to talk with a financial aid counselor BEFORE submitting your FAFSA.

Students do not always receive a better financial aid package because they are married. A financial aid counselor can advise you on whether it is best to complete the FAFSA before getting married (and receive aid as a single student) or wait to submit the FAFSA until after you are married (and receive financial aid as a married independent student). Note: Some changes in marital status **may** be allowed after your FAFSA has been completed (see below), but these are reviewed on a case-by-case basis based on a variety of factors, including a determination of which status best reflects your ability to pay. If you are planning to get married (or expect any change in marital status), be sure to talk with the financial aid office **prior** to completing your FAFSA to ensure that you receive the best financial aid package.

Yes, I have already completed my 2025-26 FAFSA.

If you have already completed your FAFSA and your marital status has since changed, a financial aid counselor **MAY** be able to update your dependency status on your FAFSA. Please review the following questions:



1. If yes, how has your marital status changed? (please check one)

From  Single to  Married

If you select this option, please complete the following steps:

1. Log onto **FAFSA.gov** and correct your marital status to show that you are “Married.”
(This will cause a reject code to appear on your FAFSA that requires a financial aid counselor to override.)
2. Submit the following documents to the Bethel financial aid office:
 - a. Copy of your Marriage Certificate
 - b. Completed, signed paper 2025-2026 FAFSA (available at: studentaid.gov)
 - c. 2025-26 Bethel Family Size Confirmation form (Request from Financial Aid Office)
 - d. 2023 Tax Return Transcripts for **you and your spouse**
(Visit irs.gov or call 1-800-908-9946 to request tax return transcript from the IRS)

- e. If you did not file a 2023 federal tax return, submit all 2023 W-2's for **you and your spouse** and 2023 non-filing letter from the IRS for **you and your spouse**
- f. This completed appeal form

From  Married to  Single

If you select this option, please complete the following steps:

1. Log onto **FAFSA.gov** and correct your marital status to reflect your current marital status. *(This will cause a reject code to appear on your FAFSA that requires a financial aid counselor to override.)*
2. Submit the following documents to the Bethel financial aid office:
 - a. Documentation of change in marital status (e.g. divorce paperwork)
 - b. Completed, signed paper 2025-2026 FAFSA *(available at: studentaid.gov)*
 - c. Verification Documentation (see options below):
 - i. If the FAFSA requires parent information, submit the following documents:
 1. Bethel Family Size Confirmation form *(Request from Financial Aid Office)*
 2. 2023 Tax Return Transcript for student and parents
(Visit irs.gov or call 1-800-908-9946 to request tax return transcripts from the IRS)
 3. All 2023 W-2's for student and parents
 - ii. If the FAFSA does not require parent information, submit the following documents
 1. Independent Verification Worksheet
 2. 2023 Tax Return Transcript for student
(Visit irs.gov or call 1-800-908-9946 to request tax return transcripts from the IRS)
 3. All 2023 W-2's for student if you did not file a 2023 federal tax return
 - d. This completed appeal form.

2. Please explain your circumstances, including how you intend to pay your Bethel bill, with clarification as to why the financial aid office should approve this change in marital status:

Certification

I affirm that all data elements contained on this form and any accompanying documentation are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. Upon request I will provide additional documentation to substantiate the information provided.

Signature _____ Date _____

Office Use Only:

PLEASE ALLOW A MINIMUM OF 2-3 WEEKS FOR PROCESSING.

Office of Financial Aid • Bethel University • 3900 Bethel Drive • St. Paul, MN 55112 • fax: 651.635.1491
 phone: 651.638.6241 • 1.800.255.8706 ext. 6241 • web: bethel.edu/financial-aid (use secure upload tool)