



Veteran Status Verification

Name: _____ E#: _____

This verification is to determine your dependency status based upon Veteran classification.

You have answered “Yes” to the FAFSA question “Are you a Veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?” or “Are you on Active Duty in the U.S. Armed Forces?” and in order to continue processing your FAFSA, your dependency status must be verified.

Only individuals verified as a Veteran according to FAFSA guidelines are considered independent status. All other individuals are considered dependent status and must provide parent information on the FAFSA.

For FAFSA filing purposes, Veterans and persons on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces (the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard) for purposes other than training are independent.

Veterans are those who were in **active service** (which includes basic training, aka boot camp) and were released under a condition other than “dishonorable.” This includes those who fraudulently entered the service, as long as their entire period of service was not voided. There is no minimum amount of time the student has to have served to be a veteran—even one day counts—but it does have to be **active service**. This is less stringent than the VA’s definition of a veteran for receiving certain VA benefits.

The FAFSA application also tells students to answer “Yes” to the question about veteran status if they aren’t yet a veteran but will be by June 30 (of the academic year applying for). Students who attended a **U.S. service academy** or preparatory school for at least one day and were released under conditions other than “dishonorable” count as veterans for Title IV purposes. Students serving in ROTC or currently attending a U.S. military academy are **not** veterans.

Members of the **National Guard** or **Reserves** are only considered veterans if they were called up to **active federal duty by presidential order for a purpose other than training**. It does not matter how long the active duty lasted or if the student returned to reserve status afterward, but as with the other qualifying veterans, the student must have had a character of service that was not “dishonorable.”

Please answer the questions below to determine your dependency status:

- 1) Are you a Veteran on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces (the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard) for purposes other than training? _____ **Yes** _____ **No** (If yes, please provide documentation)
- 2) Are you a Veteran (of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard) who was in active service and released under a condition other than “dishonorable”? _____ **Yes** _____ **No** (If yes, please provide documentation)
- 3) Have you served or are you serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces? ___**Y**___**N**

Enlistment Date: _____ **Separation Date:** _____

- 4) Will you be a Veteran* (of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard) by June 30 of the academic year you are applying for? _____ **Yes** _____ **No** (If yes, please provide documentation)

What date will you be a Veteran? _____

**To be considered a veteran, the student must have been released from active duty. If the student is still on active duty, he or she is not yet a veteran. However, if the student will be a veteran by June 30 of the school year, he or she is treated as a veteran for Federal student aid purposes. In such a situation the student should supply a letter from a commanding officer indicating that the student will be released from active duty by June 30 and that the character of service so far has been other than dishonorable.*

- 5) Have you attended a U.S. service academy or preparatory school for at least one day and been released under conditions other than “dishonorable”? _____ **Yes** _____ **No** (If yes, please provide documentation)

- 6) Are you serving in ROTC or currently attending a U.S. military academy?
_____ **Yes** _____ **No** (If yes, you are not considered independent status and will need to change the answer to the FAFSA question to “No” and provide parent information on the FAFSA.)

- 7) Are you a member of the National Guard or Reserves? _____ **Yes** _____ **No** - If yes, have you been called up to **active federal duty by presidential order for purposes other than training** and have a character of service other than “dishonorable”?
_____ **Yes** _____ **No** (If yes, please provide documentation) (If no, you are not considered independent status and will need to change the answer to the FAFSA question to “No” and provide parent information on the FAFSA.)

If you have verified per these questions that you are not an independent student by the FAFSA guidelines listed above, you must update your FAFSA to the answer “No” for the question “Are you a Veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?” or “Are you on Active Duty in the U.S. Armed Forces?” You must also provide parent information on your FAFSA to continue processing as a dependent student.

Signature _____ Date _____

Return completed form and proper documentation verifying eligibility to: Veteran Benefits, Eastern Illinois University, 600 Lincoln Ave., Charleston, IL 61920-3099