

## FAQs about Financial Aid

# Special Circumstances (Video 8)

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Sometimes families want to negotiate with a college or university for additional financial aid, but colleges typically will base changes only on “need,” not “want.” Your college or university financial aid office, however, will likely reconsider your need for assistance if you experience significant changes in your family’s financial situation.

**Significant or special circumstances can come up at any time – before you enroll or while you are enrolled. Talk with the financial aid office at your college whenever changes such as these occur:**

- Unemployment of a parent or spouse
- Death of a parent or spouse
- Separation or divorce
- Major non-discretionary expenses such as medical bills
- A major natural or human disaster that affects you, such as hurricane, flooding or catastrophic event

Be prepared to provide new information and documentation to your aid officer of how the special circumstances have affected your family’s ability to pay for college.

To apply for financial aid, complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [www.FAFSA.gov](http://www.FAFSA.gov).

For more free information on financial aid, contact your school counselor, your college financial aid office, or College Foundation of North Carolina at [CFNC.org](http://CFNC.org) or 866-866-CFNC.