



Financial Aid Office

2016-2017 Student Marital Status and Tax Filing Status Verification

Student's Name:	Student ID or SSN:	Date:
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Your 2016 – 2017 FAFSA application has been identified by the U. S. Department of Education for potentially conflicting information between your marital status and tax filing status. Although the reported marital status and 2015 tax filing status may have been accurately reported on the FAFSA, we are required to verify this information. The information you provide will be used to verify, update, or correct the information provided on your 2016 – 2017 FAFSA.

According to the IRS, a tax payer must use a tax filing status of *married filing jointly* or *married filing separately* if they are married or considered married on December 31, 2015. If you were *unmarried* or *considered unmarried* on December 31, 2015, your filing status is *single* or if you have a qualifying dependent you may file as *head of household*. If you used the *incorrect* filing status, you must file an amended tax return with the IRS. In addition, you must submit the following documents to the ASUN Financial Aid Office:

- A signed copy of amended 2015 1040X Federal Tax Return, AND
- A copy of the 2015 IRS Tax Return Transcript and copies of all W2 forms

Note: Consistent with the Supreme Court decision on the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), same-sex married couples must report both their information if they were *LEGALLY* married in a state or other jurisdiction (foreign country) which permits same-sex marriage.

Common Law Marriage in Arkansas: The state of Arkansas recognizes “common law marriages” if the couple was legally considered to be married in a common law marriage state and then moved to Arkansas. Documentation from the state in which the common law marriage was established is required.

Please note: The ASUN Financial Aid Office cannot continue the processing of your financial aid application until all financial aid documents are received and conflicting information has been resolved.

SECTION 1:

What was your marital status the DATE you completed the 2016 – 2017 FAFSA? (Please read all options and select one)	Please indicate your tax filing status as stated on your 2015 Federal Income Tax Return.
() Single or Unmarried	() Single () Head of Household () *I did not file taxes. () **Other:
() Married or Re-Married Date of Marriage:	() Married, Filing a Joint Return () Married, Filing Separate Return () Head of Household () *I did not file taxes. () **Other:
() Divorced or Separated Date of Divorce or Separation:	() Single () Married, Filing Joint Return (Please submit proof of separation – Current copies of leases/rental agreements, utility bills, or driver’s licenses with different addresses () *I did not file taxes. () **Other:
() Widowed Date Widowed:	() Single () Head of Household () Married, Filing Joint Return () Qualifying Widower (By checking this box, you certify that you are a qualifying widower and have provided only the surviving spouse’s income on the 2016 – 2017 FAFSA () *I did not file taxes. () **Other:

**If you checked “I did not file taxes.”, you may be required to complete an additional worksheet and/or obtain a Verification of Non-Filing letter from the IRS. **If you checked “Other”, there may be conflicting information that requires resolution. Please specify what your tax filing status was and attach a letter which explains why you were allowed to use that filing status given your marital status and a letter of explanation from your tax preparer or IRS, if available.*

SECTION 2: Complete this section ONLY IF you indicated a marital status of MARRIED OR REMARRIED and filing a tax return of HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD.

A. I was Considered Unmarried in 2015 because:

Initial each circumstance(s) *ONLY IF* the requirement was applicable to your tax filing situation in 2015:

- I filed a separate tax return from my spouse.
- I paid more than half the cost of keeping my home in 2015.
- My spouse did not live in my home during the last 6 months of 2015. (Your spouse is considered to live in your home even if he or she is temporarily absent due to special circumstances such as illness, education, business, vacation, or military service).
- My home was the main home for the child(ren), stepchild(ren), or foster child(ren) for more than half the year.
- I claimed an exemption for the child(ren). Please note you meet this test if you cannot claim exemption *only* because the non-custodial parent can claim the child.

B. I was able to file *Head of Household* in 2015 because:

Initial each circumstance(s) *ONLY IF* the requirement was applicable to your tax filing situation in 2015:

- I was married, but *considered unmarried*. Initial here *ONLY IF ALL* of the items in Section A were applicable.
- I paid more than half the cost of keeping up my home in 2015.
- A qualifying person lived with me in the home for more than half the year (except for temporary absences such as school. However, if the qualifying person is your dependent parent, he or she does not have to live with you).

IMPORTANT: Section 2 pertains to tax regulations that detail Head of Household eligibility. If you are legally married and filed your taxes as Head of Household for 2015 but do not meet the tax regulations detailed in the IRS Publication 17 <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p17.pdf> enabling you to file as such, you may need to file an amended tax return (1040X) correcting your filing status.

I (We) certify that all the information provided on this form is complete and accurate. I understand that I may be required to provide additional documentation. Purposely providing false or misleading information on this form may result in an investigation by the Inspector General for Student Aid Fraud.

If you are married, your spouse's signature is required.

Student's Signature

Date

Spouse's Signature

Date