TOWSON UNIVERSITY | Financial Aid

2026-2027 Special Conditions Screening Form

Phone: 410-704-4236 • **Web Site**: www.towson.edu/finaid • **Email**: finaid@towson.edu • **Upload Aid Documents**: www.towson.edu/SubmitAidDocs

The standard **2026-2027** FAFSA process evaluates financial need based on your income from the **2024** tax year.

If you had a significant income reduction since then, use this Special Conditions process to request a reevaluation of your financial need based on your final **2025** income **or** your total projected **2026** income. If your revised income is low enough, you might qualify for more aid, but if it is still too high your aid offers won't change.

Student Name (Last, First, M.I.):	TU ID #:

INSTRUCTIONS (If you already earned a bachelor's degree or are graduate student, skip to the last FAQs on page 2.)

1) To request adjustments for the costs of other family members in college, you must submit our 2026-2027 Family Member in College Appeal Form.

2) To submit this Special Conditions form, check the applicable changes below. We can only adjust for these situations.

- ☐ Significant Income Reduction because of employment changes
- ☐ Retirement
- ☐ Death of Student's Parent or Spouse
- ☐ Marital Separation or Divorce – (Parent or a married student). **In step 3, exclude spouse's income**.
- ☐ Loss of one-time income from 2024 (i.e., severance pay, 401k or pension distribution)
- ☐ Supporting two households due to employment situation
- ☐ Other:
  - ☐ Parent, spouse, or student suffered permanent and total disability **after January 1, 2025**.
  - ☐ Child Support payments decreased or ceased.

Expense Adjustments

- ☐ Unusually high medical expenses not covered by insurance
- ☐ Natural disaster (fire, flood, etc.)

3) Review your FAFSA Student Aid Index (SAI)

Visit the FAFSA web site and look up the **Student Aid Index** (SAI) value on your FAFSA summary.

If your SAI is already 0 or a negative number, this process can't help you qualify for more aid unless you are a Maryland resident who doesn't already qualify for **MHEC's Guaranteed Access Grant** because your 2024 income was still too high. Review MHEC's eligibility requirements.

If your SAI is greater than 0, this process could reduce your SAI, but if your SAI is too high, and your income hasn't changed enough, your estimated revised SAI may still be too high to qualify for more aid. Complete the table below and submit this form. We will review your SAI and the estimated data below. If there's a chance that your SAI might change enough to receive more aid, we will send you a link to an online process that will collect documentation.

4) Estimated Income Changes (If you are a married student, report your and spouse's data in the student section.)

Section	Requested Data	2024 (Final)	2025 (Final)	2026 (Projected)
Student	Annual Gross Income	$	$	$
	Annual Child Support Payments Received	$	$	$
	Annual Eligible Expenses Adjustments*	$	$	$
Parent(s)	Annual Gross Income	$	$	$
	Annual Child Support Payments Received	$	$	$
	Annual Eligible Expenses Adjustments*	$	$	$

*For Expenses Adjustments, only include the eligible expenses listed in question 2.

5) Choose one of these options and complete the table below.

☐ **Dependent Student** - The FAFSA required my parent's data.

I certify that the parent(s) listed on my FAFSA will provide more than half of the financial support for the family members listed below from **July 1, 2026** to **June 30, 2027**.

Include the parent(s) who were listed on the FAFSA and family members they support based on the requirements above.

☐ **Independent Student** - The FAFSA did not require my parent's data.

I certify that I (or my spouse) will provide more than half of the financial support for the family members listed below from **July 1, 2026** to **June 30, 2027**.

If you are married, list your spouse. Also list any family members you support based on the requirements above.

Family Member's Full Name	Relationship to Student	Age
	Self (the TU Student)	

6) Form Submission - Upload the completed form here: www.towson.edu/SubmitAidDocs.

(Please **don't attach** any supporting documentation.)

7) Response Time – We will respond within 2 weeks.

8) Next Steps

If you pass this pre-screening process, we will send you a link to documentation process with our partner **Inceptia**, and we can't begin evaluating your request until you provide all the documentation they request.

Once we receive and review all that documentation, we will determine if the changes help you qualify for any additional aid.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **If I previously submitted a 2025-2026 Special Conditions Form, what do you need for 2026-2027 adjustments?**

  If we previously reevaluated your eligibility for **2025-2026** aid based on your projected **2025** income, the online process will still request your final **2025** tax return.

- **What if I have business, self-employment, or irregular income?**

  If your 2025 income was lower, the online process will request your final 2025 federal tax return.

  If your 2026 income will be lower, you must wait to request adjustments until after you file your 2026 tax return. We can't accurately project business, self-employment, or irregular income. If you submit your tax return during the spring 2027 term, we can usually retroactively award any additional aid you receive for the fall 2026 and spring 2027 terms.

- **How is this process different if I have already earned a bachelor's degree?**

  If you have already earned a bachelor's degree, then you aren't eligible to receive need-based grants.

- **How is this process different for graduate students?**

  Graduate students should not pursue this process because there aren't any need-based federal or state aid programs for graduate students. TU doesn't offer any need-based graduate aid except for a few TU Foundation Scholarships.