



GW Financial Aid Appeal Policy:

Your eligibility for financial aid was initially calculated based on the information you provided on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and on the CSS Profile. All families are evaluated based on the data gathered from these applications to determine a family's ability to pay for college. The federal formula assumes that 2024 income is a good indicator of the family's financial strength during the students 2026-2027 enrollment. Along with the FAFSA the CSS Profile allows GW set an equal foundation of the financial aid picture in your household.

GW's Office of Student Financial Aid recognizes that families experience changes in income or other family circumstances that are not reflected in the 2024 tax return information. Therefore, it is possible for students to appeal their financial aid eligibility if they have special financial circumstances.

Examples of Special Circumstances Considered:

- Reduction in income or benefits in 2026 (ex. 15% reduction in income based on AGI reported on taxes)
- Medical expenses not covered by insurance
- Death of a contributor (parent or spouse) whose information is on the FAFSA form.
- Death of a Non-Custodial Parent reported on CSS Profile
- Divorce or legal separation after filing the 2026-2027 FAFSA

Examples of Special Circumstances NOT Considered:

- Home Repairs
- Private School Tuition for siblings
- Credit card debt/Mortgage payments or other typical expenses
- Weddings or other major purchases
- Previous educational loan debt

Granting appeals is based on a one-time special circumstance. It also depends on the availability of funds and the timeliness of completing your financial aid file with GW. Submitting this form does not guarantee an adjustment or increase your financial aid. Our office will not review appeals for students who have not had their financial aid offer completed or appeals without letter of explanation and supporting documents attached.

Appeals are reviewed within 30 business days of after receipt of all required and supporting documentation. Response time may vary depending on volume of appeals at the time of your request.

If your 2026 income is the same or higher than 2024, do not complete this form.

Please do not disregard your university bill due date while waiting for an appeal; any late fees incurred during this time will not be waived



This form is used to document unexpected changes to the student and/or parent's household income during the 2026-2027 academic year. Our response will be based upon the review of your documentation and funding limits. **Please allow 45 business days for processing.**

Submit all required documentation with this form:

- ✓ Signed copies of the 2024 and 2025 Federal Tax Return(s) and W2 statements
- ✓ If submitting after 12/31/2026, attach copies of 2026 Federal Tax Return(s) and W2 statements
- ✓ Specific documentation related to your appeal circumstances

GW Student Last Name	First Name	MI	GWid
Student Email Address			Parent of Dependent Student Email Address
Student Phone Number			Parent of Dependent Student Phone Number

PLEASE INDICATE THE BASIS FOR YOUR APPEAL BELOW:

- Loss of employment for 10 weeks or longer (Please complete Section I)
- Reduction in salary or wages (Please complete Section I)
- Medical expenses that are not covered by insurance (Refer to Section II)
- Uninsured Losses or Funeral Expenses (Refer to Section II)
- Catastrophic property damage (Refer to Section II)
- Recent Change in Marital Status (Please complete Section III)
- Other (Please attach a letter of explanation)

This form is for: (check only one box) Student, Student's Spouse, or Student's Parent _____
Name if other than student

SECTION I: REDUCTION IN INCOME

If there is a reduction in income for 2025, submit copies of your 2025 federal taxes and W2s.

In order for the Financial Aid Office to consider an income appeal, we must first confirm that the information originally reported on your FAFSA is correct. If you submit an income appeal you may be asked to complete the verification process if you have not already done so. Please also note that we cannot project based on estimated income information. If you do not have completed taxes reflecting the change in income, we will not be able to process an appeal based on this change.

Reason for reduced income:

- Disabled Terminated Laid Off New job with lower income Left job to attend school

GW Student Last Name	First Name	MI	GWid
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SECTION II: CHANGE TO FAMILY EXPENSES

If you have had an unexpected change in your family expenses beyond your family’s control that impact your ability to contribute towards educational expenses next year, please provide an explanation in an attached letter. Please include an itemization of all expenses and attach documentation that will help us to better understand the situation.

Some examples include:

- Unreimbursed medical expenses
- Uninsured losses and funeral expenses
- Catastrophic Property Damage

SECTION III: MARITAL STATUS CHANGE

If you had a recent change in marital status, please explain the circumstances in an attached letter.

Date of marital status change: _____

Please attach a letter to provide further explanation if there are any other factors you would like us to consider as a part of our review.

Remember to also include supporting documentation relevant to the change in circumstances.

CERTIFICATION

I certify that the above is complete and accurate and understand that repayment will be required if income underestimation results in an over award. I will inform the Office of Student Financial Assistance in writing within two weeks if any changes to the above information occur.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date