



ERIC FISHER
ACADEMY

EFA Professional Judgement Policy

Professional Judgement refers to EFA's authority to adjust, on a case-by-case basis, information reported on the Free Application of Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) so that the Department of Education can recalculate the Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The EFC is the number that the school uses to determine if a student is eligible for need based financial aid. The school does not have the authority to make direct adjustments to the EFC or the formula used to calculate the EFC, just data elements on the FAFSA which may change the EFC.

The Professional Judgement process is an extensive process that requires a thorough review by the Financial Aid Leader to determine what, if any changes, may be appropriated based on the FAFSA application. It is a time intensive process that includes the following steps:

- A Professional Judgement request must be submitted to the Financial Aid Leader
- The request will then be reviewed to determine what required documentation needs to be submitted. Additional documentation may be required, and the student will be notified by email, text, or phone call.
- The Financial Aid Leader will determine if a student's Professional Judgement request meets the criteria to make data element changes to their FAFSA.

In many cases, an adjustment does not increase the student's eligibility for grants, or the total amount of aid awarded. The Financial Aid Leader reserves the right to deny any appeals that would not increase a student's eligible for aid. The decision of the Financial Aid Leader is final and cannot be appealed to the Department of Education.