

Cuyahoga Valley Career Center Professional Judgement Policy

Federal regulations allow limited exceptions or adjustments to information reported on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Such exceptions or adjustments, known as “Professional Judgment,” are considered on a case-by-case basis based on supporting documentation of your circumstances. Whether any adjustments are made is at the sole discretion of the Office of Student Support Services and are final and cannot be appealed. (Higher Education Act of 1965, Sections 479A and 480(d)(7))

Circumstances that may warrant a professional judgment decision include, but are not limited to:

- Parent’s death or divorce for dependent students; death of or divorce from spouse of independent students
- Significant loss of income/loss of employment
- Loss of untaxed income/benefits (e.g. disability, child support, or other benefits)
- Excessive medical expenses (not covered by insurance)
- One-time taxable income used for life changing event (e.g. IRA, pension distribution)

Circumstances that are NOT considered extenuating include, but are not limited to:

- Standard living expenses (e.g. utilities, credit card payments, children’s allowances, etc.)
- Mortgage payments
- Car payments
- Credit card or other personal debts
- Vacation expenses
- All other discretionary expenses

Please see Adult Education Department for the Special Circumstance Request application. Please complete and attach copies of required documentation to Claudette Knestrick, Student Support Services.