

# 2021-2022 Request for Special Consideration

This form must be completed in **blue or black ink** and returned to the Arkansas Tech Financial Aid Office

- Brown Hall, Suite 206 • 105 West O Street • Russellville, AR 72801 • 479.968.0399 • 479.964.0857 (fax) • [fa.review@atu.edu](mailto:fa.review@atu.edu) or [thale@atu.edu](mailto:thale@atu.edu) •
- Note: All notifications of missing information, awards, and general information from the Financial Aid Office will be e-mailed to your OneTech account.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is based on prior-prior-year tax information (tax information from two years prior). The U.S. Department of Education regulates the process of collecting prior- prior year income and uses a formula based on the FAFSA information provided to determine a student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The EFC is used to determine the amount of federal aid (grants, loans, work-study) a student may be eligible to receive.

However, we recognize that the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) information may not always accurately portray your current financial situation. If your financial situation has changed due to circumstances beyond your control, you may request a special consideration review of your financial aid eligibility based on those circumstances.

For example, during the 2021-2022 aid year, this process may allow the use of your 2020 federal taxes or July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021 income instead of the 2019 federal tax information.

Examples that may be considered for review include the following:

- Loss of employment
- Divorce or separation (parents or student and for at least six weeks)
- Reduction or end of child support payments received
- Death of a parent or spouse
- Unreimbursed medical and/or dental expenses paid during the prior year.

Examples of circumstances that will **NOT** be considered for review include the following:

- One-time payment received (such as, but not limited to, lottery/gambling winnings, inheritance, withdrawals from pension, sale of property)
- Bankruptcy
- Tuition paid for elementary/secondary private school or daycare

A FAFSA is required before requesting special consideration. Be advised that once a special consideration review has begun, the student will be selected for verification. The verification process will require additional documents, such as prior-prior year tax return (signed) or tax transcript, W-2s, 1099s and verification forms. Additional documents may be requested during the process. The special consideration review will not occur until the verification is complete.

**2021-22 Special consideration reviews will begin May 1, 2021.**

## **The special consideration process:**

Once all of the requested documents are received, the financial aid specialist will determine if the circumstances qualify for a review and if the change(s) will impact the student's EFC. If the changes do not provide additional federal aid for the student, the process will not proceed. If there is a positive impact on federal aid, the new information will be submitted to FAFSA. The student will receive an updated award letter sent to their ATU email notifying them of the changes. This process usually takes 3 to 4 weeks to complete once all the documents have been received by the ATU Financial Aid office.

## How do I submit the special consideration request?

Before submitting a special consideration request, the student must submit a FAFSA and clear all of the red-flags on their financial aid requirements on Onetech.

Check below to determine which documents you may be required to submit for the review.

- All reviews must contain the following:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 2020, signed, federal tax return (student, spouse, and parents, if applicable).
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 2020 W2(s), 1099(s), and all federal schedules (student, spouse, and parents, if applicable).
- Loss of student/spouse income since 2019
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Signed letter/statement from employer, on letterhead, regarding job loss (include date the job ended, why it ended, and gross income earned between July 1, 2020 to last date work or through June 30, 2021).
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Paystubs received between July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.
- Loss of parent income since 2019
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Signed letter/statement from employer, on letterhead, regarding job loss (include date the job ended, why it ended, and gross income earned between July 1, 2020 to last date work or through June 30, 2021).
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Paystubs received between July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 for parent(s) and student, if applicable.
- Loss of benefits since 2019. Examples include loss of unemployment, social security, disability, or child support received.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Documents to identify the source of income, the amount of income received, dates income was received, and proof that the income will cease.
- Separation or Divorce. Must be separated or divorced at least 6 weeks before applying for review.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Notarized or legal statement documenting date of separation.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Divorce decree.
- Death of parent or spouse
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Death certificate or obituary.
- Medical and/or dental expenses **paid** in 2020
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Proof of all medical and/or dental expenses paid in 2020.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 2020 Schedule A (Itemized statement from federal tax return).



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Financial Aid

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID #: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP 1:** You must complete the 2021-2022 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at <https://studentaid.gov> and your FAFSA information must be verified by the Financial Aid Office before your Request for Special Consideration can be processed.

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**STEP 2:** Check the reason(s) for the loss of income and submit the required documentation for your situation.

- Decrease in Student/spouse income since 2019
  - Decrease in Parent income since 2019
  - Loss of benefits since 2019
  - Separation or divorce (at least 6 weeks)
  - Death of parent or spouse
  - Excessive medical and/or dental expenses in 2020
- 

**STEP 3:**

- Submit 2020, signed Federal tax return (student, spouse, and parents, if applicable)
- Submit all 2020 W2s and 1099s (student, spouse and parents, if applicable)

\*Additional documents may be requested

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID #: \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP 4:** Actual and estimated income information. Please complete the income chart below for all income received from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 (estimate if completing before June 30, 2021). If certain questions do not apply to you, be sure to indicate “N/A” or “zero” in those fields. Supply supporting documents to show proof of all the income listed below.

Enter <b>zero or N/A</b> if you did not and will not receive item listed.	<b>Student</b>	<b>Spouse</b>	<b>Parent 1</b>	<b>Parent 2</b>
Alimony received				
Business income				
Income earned from work				
Unemployment benefits received				
Farm income				
Rental income				
Retirement income				
Social security benefits				
Workers’ compensation benefits				
Disability benefits				
Veteran’s benefits (non-education)				
Child support paid				
Child support received				
Untaxed income:				
Other income:				

**STEP 5:** Family information: Write the names of all family or household members living in your household during 2020 or 2021.

Full Name	Age	Relationship to Student	College Attending	Year in Household (2020, 2021, or both)
		Student/Self	ATU	both

**Step 6: Provide a statement detailing your circumstance which caused the change of income.**

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Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID #: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP 6:** Certification Statement: Your signature on this document confirms your acknowledgement of the following:

- The information submitted for review is true and correct to the best of your knowledge.
- Providing false information may result in reduced eligibility, repayment of aid, or both.
- Underestimating the projected income could result in reduced eligibility, repayment of aid, or both in this year or next.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent 1 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent 2 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP 7:** Submit your Special Consideration form and supporting documentation to the address or fax listed above or through [FA Doc Upload](#) on Onetech.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Office Use Only**\_\_\_\_\_

EFC before review: \_\_\_\_\_ EFC after review: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Processed: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved \_\_\_ Denied \_\_\_ Canceled \_\_\_