

MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE
FINANCIAL AID IMPLICATIONS FOR STUDENTS PLANNING MARRIAGE

1. Married students are considered independent. This means that your parents' income and assets are not taken into account when financial aid eligibility is calculated.
 - You will be considered independent **ONLY** if the FAFSA is filed **AFTER** you are married.
 - The marital status of a student cannot be up-dated (U.S. Dept. of Education regulations), so if on the date you file your FAFSA, you are a single, dependent student, that will be your status for the school year.
2. Income and assets of **both** husband and wife are taken into consideration when you file as a married student.
3. In some cases it may be to a student's advantage to remain on dependent status:
 - If parents' contribution has been low
 - If future spouse's income is high
4. MLC will consider you eligible for MLC grants even if you complete the FAFSA after the April 15 deadline **as long as we are informed by April 15 in writing as a statement on your MLC Financial Aid Application** that you will file after you are married.
5. **However**, the financial aid determination might not be made in time to be considered for the first payment. **Be prepared to make the first payments on your own.** Financial aid will be considered for later payments.
6. **The decision of when to file and what status to use is a decision only you can make after considering your circumstances.**