



PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT

TOPIC: Elder Care

IM STANDARD TREATMENT

The IM standard treatment does not consider expenses incurred for elder care. Information about these expenses is not collected on the standard PROFILE Application.

FM STANDARD TREATMENT

The FM standard treatment is the same as the IM. Information about these expenses is not collected on the FAFSA.

WHY PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE

Caring for any dependent, whether a child or a parent, affects the family's ability to pay for college expenses. The elderly family member may be living with the student's family and receive basic support, but have independent income. Alternatively, the elderly person may be totally dependent on the student's family, and may incur significant medical or nursing care expenses.

HOW IM COULD BE ADJUSTED

After collecting additional information about the expenses incurred for elder care, the aid administrator could reduce the family's available income by the amount of the elder care expenses. Alternatively, the aid administrator might reduce the parents' income by the amount by which the elderly person's expenses exceed his or her income. The elderly person could also be included in the household size. In this case, the person's resources may need to be included in the analysis.

HOW FM COULD BE ADJUSTED

The FM could be adjusted in the same way as the IM. However, the adjustment must be made to a data element such as taxes paid or household size.

HOW COLLEGE BOARD SERVICES SUPPORT PJ

CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE

Families will report additional information in Section ES. This is a good place to look for information about special family circumstances that affect the family's ability to pay for college, including elder care.

Institutions may select Supplemental Question 302, which asks how much the student's parents paid during the last tax year for elder care and/or Question 618, which collects elder care and child care expenses from the student.

College Board IM Options

An institution using software that utilizes the College Board's IM may treat the information about elder care collected on the PROFILE application in Supplemental Question 302 as an "Other Income Allowance."

DOCUMENTATION

All changes should be documented.

The aid administrator may want to collect:

- Forms SSA1099 and other forms 1099
- Tax return for the elderly person
- Bills from a long-term care facility
- Asset information from the elderly person
- The parent's tax return to see whether the elderly person was claimed as an exemption
- Information about the elderly person's income, such as social security, pensions, and interest/dividend income
- Income and expense worksheet for the elderly person