



## Professional Judgement Policy

*Students may pursue an adjustment to their financial aid packages based on special or unusual circumstances.*

### What Is Professional Judgment?

Professional judgment refers to the discretion that federal regulations give to financial aid administrators to make adjustments, on a case-by-case basis, to certain elements of a student's FAFSA information to account for special circumstances. These adjustments are intended to provide a more accurate assessment of the amount of federal aid a student is eligible for.

Professional judgment allows the Grand River Technical School Office of Financial Aid to adjust a student's expected family contribution (EFC) for educational expenses, standard cost of attendance (COA) budget, and/or financial aid dependency status, as determined by federal guidelines. Adjustments submitted for consideration must be documented and reasonable as it pertains to the cost of attendance and are on a case-by-case basis.

### To Request A Professional Judgment Review

Grand River Technical School students may request that the school's Office of Financial Aid review their federal aid eligibility in light of certain special circumstances (described in the [guidelines below](#)).

**To submit a request, students stop by the Office of Financial Aid and request a professional judgement form, and return it along with all necessary documentation.**

**Please review the guidelines carefully and collect all necessary information and documentation before starting the request process.**

### Guidelines for Professional Judgment Review

The Grand River Technical School Office of Financial Aid, in accordance with federal regulations, establishes a standard student budget for all aid recipients based on expected tuition and other campus fees, average housing costs, average book and supply expenses, and average transportation costs for students within a 30 mile radius. However, adjustments may be made if there is a change in household income due to layoff, loss of job, or physical injury resulting in inability to continue employment (this will need medical documentation as well as documentation from the employer at time of injury).

### Conditions that do NOT merit COA adjustments include (but are not limited to):

- Automobile or household expenses
- Consumer indebtedness (including but not limited to, auto loans, credit card payments, student loan payments)
- Financial support of a spouse or dependents
- Additional food purchases beyond budget
- Utility and telephone bills
- Private school enrollment for dependent children or family, afterschool care, summer camps for dependents

### Important Notes

- Other institutional or external support must also be reported in this application in order to determine federal aid eligibility.
- Upon submission of the application and all documentation, students should receive an email from the Grand River Technical School Office of Financial Aid in 14 days with our office's decision on the professional judgment request.
- All requests for the 2023-2024 financial aid year must be received by the Grand River Technical School Office of Financial Aid by Aug 1, 2023.

### Submitting Your Request

Once you have reviewed the above guidelines and collected the required documentation, complete the Request for Professional Judgment Review form.