

2016-2017 Request for Dependency Override Information

For Student Information Only

In 2016-2017, the U.S. Department of Education, Federal Student Aid Programs, defines an independent student as:

- is 24 years of age or older by December 31 of the award year;
- is an orphan or ward of the court or was a ward of the court until the individual reached the age of 18;
- is a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States
- is a graduate or professional student;
- is a married individual;
- has legal dependents other than a spouse;

Circumstances that **do not** merit a dependency override are:

1. Parents refusing to contribute to the student's education;
2. Parents unwilling to provide information on the application or for verification;
3. Parents not claiming the student as a dependent for income tax purposes;
4. A choice made by the student to move out of his/her parent's home and be financially independent.

Circumstances that may be considered:

- Severe estrangement from parents. Examples include abandonment, parental drug/ alcohol abuse, parental mental incapacity, physical or emotional abuse, parental incarceration (written statements from at least two professional adults must document any of these examples). Professional adults would include teachers, clergy, guidance counselors, law enforcement officials or doctors. These statements must be signed and dated. If the statements are NOT on business letterhead, the statement must have an attached business card.
- On or after July 1, 2014, your high school or district homeless liaison (or the director of an emergency shelter program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) determined that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless.
- On or after July 1, 2014, the director of a runaway or homeless Youth-Basic center or transitional living program determined that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or that you were self supporting and at risk of being homeless.

Making Dependency Override Decisions

Financial aid administrators have the ability to make a documented determination of independence based upon "other unusual circumstances." Dependency overrides are permitted on truly exceptional circumstances and consideration of individual cases. These practices include, for example, making dependency overrides in situations when a student's parent cannot be located, or where an otherwise dependent student has been a victim of domestic violence and is no longer residing with his or her parents.

2016-2017 DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE REQUEST FORM

Name: _____ **(Submit to the Financial Aid Office)** _____

Federal law assumes that the family has the primary responsibility for meeting the educational cost of students. Therefore, a student must meet certain federal criteria to qualify for financial aid as an independent student. If you do not meet one of the criteria listed on the FAFSA, you will be evaluated as a dependent student, meaning that your parents must provide income and asset information. If there are extraordinary circumstances that may warrant reevaluation of your dependency status, provide the following information so that your financial aid administrator may make this determination. You may be asked for additional documentation depending on your individual situation.

Attach the following information to this form:

- A. Letter from you explaining: (1) the nature of your relationship with your parents; (2) the location of both parents and when you last had contact with them; (3) why you cannot obtain information and/or support from your parents; and (4) how you have been supporting yourself.
- B. Letter on Legal Letterhead from a professional stating your situation to verify the facts stated in your letter.
- C. **2** letters from a relative or friend indicating your circumstances and relationship with parents.
- D. Copies of your most recent two federal tax returns/transcripts (2014 & 2015), and answer the following:
 - 1. Are you living at home with your parents? YES NO
 - 2. Did your parents claim you in their federal tax return for 2014? YES NO
 - 3. Will your parents claim you in their federal tax return for 2015? YES NO

Please complete the following statement of your annual calendar year income and expenses:

INCOME (if any amounts are zero, please explain on a separate sheet)	Actual	Anticipated
	2015	2016
Earned income (e.g., wages, salaries, tips, work-study earnings)	\$	\$
Financial support received from parents	\$	\$
Monetary value of other support (e.g., health insurance, room & board) received from parents	\$	\$
Monetary value of other support (e.g., room & board) from persons other than parents (indicate individual's name and relationship to student)	\$	\$
Amount of other annual income (indicate source)	\$	\$
TOTAL	\$	\$
EXPENSES (if any \$ is zero, please explain on a separate sheet)	2015	2016
Housing	\$	\$
Food	\$	\$
Transportation (e.g., car payment, insurance, gas, maintenance)	\$	\$
Utilities	\$	\$
Child care and/or dependent care	\$	\$
Personal (e.g., clothing, entertainment)	\$	\$
Other (indicate source)	\$	\$
TOTAL	\$	\$

(Other documents needed to support request: rent/lease agreements, rent receipts, utility receipts, and any other documents to support self-sufficiency.)

I certify that the information above is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I agree to give proof of the information that I have given above. I also realize that if I do not give such proof, my request will be denied, and parental data will be used for my aid application.

Student's Signature _____ Date _____