



2024-2025 Appeal for Independent Status

Student Name: _____

Student ID# _____

Federal financial aid regulations define dependency status for the purposes of federal student aid. Students may appeal for independent status on the basis of unusual circumstances.

The following circumstances are **not considered** as a basis for Independent Status:

- your parent(s) refuse to contribute to your education
- your parent(s) refuse to provide information for the FAFSA or for verification
- your parent(s) do not claim you on their tax return
- you have the ability to, or currently, support yourself

Please Check Which Scenario Best Describes Your Situation

- I have been separated from both of my parents due to an abusive family environment
- I have been separated from both of my parents because they are incarcerated
- I have been separated from both of my parents due to abandonment and I am unable to contact them
- One of my parents is deceased and I do not know the whereabouts of my other parent
- I have a different situation that prevents me from contacting one or both of my parents

Documentation Required

Please attach all of the following documentation in order to process your appeal:

- A detailed explanation of your situation as it relates to your request. Be sure to include the last time that you had contact with your parents and the current location of your parents.
- A detailed explanation of how you are supporting yourself. If someone else is providing your support, please indicate to what extent.
- Statements and supporting documentation from at least **two** disinterested third parties who are aware of your situation. A third party may not be a relative or friend. Please provide documentation that is on letterhead where appropriate. All statements must be signed and dated.

Certification and Signature

By signing below, I certify that all the information provided is complete and correct.

Student Signature

Date