



Students classified as dependent may petition to be reclassified as independent based upon documented adverse family circumstances. Examples of adverse circumstances include severe estrangement from parents, an unsafe home environment, or unknown whereabouts of parents. **Extenuating family circumstances do NOT include financial hardship, a parent’s unwillingness to provide financial support or the fact that a student is completely self-sufficient.** In order for your appeal to be approved, you must be able to document circumstances that your relationship has been severed.

Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial	Student ID Number
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Street, City, State & Zip Code

E-Mail Address _____ Phone Number _____

The following information must be explained in a detailed narrative before your appeal will be reviewed:

1. Identify the location of both of your parents.
2. Describe the last time you had contact with each of your parents- when, where and the nature of your contact.
3. Explain why you cannot obtain parental information.
4. Provide statements from two responsible adults who are aware of your situation and can corroborate the facts you present on official letterhead. Examples of such persons would include clergy, social workers or other social service personnel, court officials (or copies of court documents), teachers or high school counselors and police officers. At least one statement must be from someone who is not a relative or a friend.
5. Verification of your 2024 Income (i.e. 1040 if filed or W-2)
6. Verification of your current living arrangements (see page 3)

Section A: Please check one of the following boxes

- _____ I am submitting this appeal form and documentation(s) for initial consideration of independence during the 2026-2027 academic year.
- _____ I have claimed to be a provisionally independent student on my 2026-2027 FAFSA. I am submitting this form for review during the 2026-2027 academic year. (Please complete the form in its entirety).
- _____ My Independent Appeal was approved in a prior academic year. However, Federal Regulations require me to submit a statement verifying that the documented adverse family circumstances still exist. This information is being provided in Section B, of this appeal form.

Section C: Verification of 2024 Income

_____ I have attached a copy of my 2024 Federal Income Tax 1040/1040A/1040EZ, along with all schedules and W-2's

_____ I have not and will not file a Federal Income Tax form 1040/1040A/1040EZ for 2024.

Earnings and/or Other Income: During 2024, I had income/earnings from the following sources in the amounts listed below: *(Attach a copy of each W-2 form)*

- 1. _____ \$ _____
- 2. _____ \$ _____
- 3. _____ \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Section D: Verification of Current Living Arrangements

_____ I have attached a copy of my current lease or rental agreement verifying that I no longer reside in my parent's household.

_____ I do not have a current lease or rental agreement for my place of residence. However, I am providing a signed statement from my current landlord/roommate verifying my tenancy. (Include the following information: address of residence, first date of tenancy, monthly amount of rent paid, and proof of rent payment.)

_____ I am living on campus during the school year and during the holidays and summer I will be staying with family and friends. (Please provide a written statement from the host regarding your stay).

Student Certification – Read carefully before you sign.

I hereby certify that all information contained in this document, including my documentation, is true and complete. I affirm that I have not knowingly provided any false statements or fraudulent documentation. I understand that if I am found to have knowingly or intentionally given false or fraudulent statements and/or documentation, my eligibility for Federal and State student aid will be jeopardized. **NOTE:** Federal regulations stipulate that evidence of fraud must be reported to the U.S. Department of Education for possible investigation by the Office of the Inspector General and possible prosecution by the United States Attorney.

Student's Signature

Date

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FOR FINANCIAL PLANNING OFFICE USE

_____ **Independent Status approved**

_____ **Independent Status denied**

Financial Planning Signature

Date