



## 2023-2024 Petition for Independent Status

### STUDENT INFORMATION

Social Security / Student ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (Middle)

**The following information is used by the Director of Financial Aid to review a student's Petition for Independent Status. The Director will decide on an individual basis whether a student's status can be changed from *dependent* to *independent*. Meeting all of the guidelines does not mean that a petition will be granted.**

#### **Who must provide parental information on the FAFSA?**

Federal Financial Aid regulations assume that the family has primary responsibility for meeting the educational costs of a student. If you are considered a dependent student according to the financial aid definition, your aid eligibility is determined by using parent income and asset information in addition to your information. Dependent students are required by law to provide parental information and signatures to be considered for financial aid. For Federal Student Aid Programs, the North Idaho College Financial Aid Office follows the definition of an independent student as set by the Department of Education.

**Under the federal definition, an undergraduate student is considered independent for 2023-2024 if they can answer "yes" to any of the following scenarios:**

- You were born before January 1, 2000.
- You have a child or children.
- You are a ward or dependent of the court, an orphan, and/or since turning age 13, you were in foster care.
- You are a veteran of the United States Armed Forces or currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training.
- You are married or separated.
- You are providing significant financial support to dependents other than a spouse or child(ren).

It has been determined by a court in the state of legal residence that you are an emancipated minor or in a legal guardianship.

It was deemed that you are a homeless, unaccompanied youth or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless.

### **Who may petition for independent status?**

If you do not meet any of the above criteria but you believe that you should be considered independent because truly exceptional circumstances make it inappropriate to expect a parental contribution, you may complete this form to petition for a waiver of federal regulation requiring parental information. Examples of unusual circumstances are situations such as when a student's parents cannot be located, or where an otherwise dependent student has been a victim of domestic violence or abuse and is no longer able to reside with their parents. Federal regulations allow Financial Aid Administrators to use professional judgment to change dependency status to "independent" on a case-by-case basis.

**Please Note:** The U.S. Department of Education has identified four conditions that, individually or in combination with one another, **do not** qualify as "unusual circumstances" and do not merit a dependency override. Those circumstances are:

- Parents refusing to contribute to the student's education
- Parents unwilling to provide information on the application or for verification
- Parents not claiming the students as a dependent for income tax purposes and/or
- Student demonstrating total self-sufficiency.

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### **Petition for Independent Status**

**In order to petition for independent status, please submit the following requirements to Cardinal Central. Allow 2-3 weeks to review your petition:**

1. The *Petition for Independent Status* form
2. Letter of petition
3. Income Documentation
4. Supporting Documentation and/or Letter of Support

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#### **REQUIREMENT 1: COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION**

Student ID \_\_\_\_\_ Student Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Identify the location of both of your parents:**

Parent 1 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you in contact? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

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Parent 2 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you in contact? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

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**REQUIREMENT 2: ATTACHED A TYPED LETTER ADDRESSING THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS**

1. Describe the last time you had contact with each of your parents - when, where, and the nature of the contact.
2. The intent of the federal regulations is that parent(s) contribute to undergraduate educational costs for all students younger than 24 years old. Please explain the extenuating circumstances that make it inappropriate to expect a parental contribution toward your educational expenses.

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**REQUIREMENT 3: INCOME DOCUMENTATION**

1. Complete the Independent Standard Verification Form, attached to the end of the petition
2. Provide 2021 Tax Documentation by either:
  - a. Submitting your 2021 IRS Tax Return and 2021 W-2 Forms
  - OR
  - b. A Verification of Non-filing Letter, if you did not file taxes in 2021\*
3. Provide any documentation and/or explanation of how you supported yourself in 2021 and how you plan to support yourself for the upcoming year. Include any year-to-date paystubs.

\* You will need to complete the 4506-T form to order a Verification of Nonfiling Letter from the IRS. This form can be found on the NIC Financial Aid webpage under "Forms for 2023FA, 2024SP, 2024SU." The 4506-T form must be sent directly to the IRS.

**REQUIREMENT 4: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION AND/OR LETTER OF SUPPORT**

You must provide supporting documentation that you have not been living with your parents and have not been claimed by your parents for tax filing purposes for the past two years.

Documentation may include:

- Death certificate
- Obituary
- Court documentation
- A statement from a source that is aware of your situation and can verify that you have not had any contact with your parents.
  - A statement may be from someone who is a relative or friend **with a copy of their driver’s license**
  - Or a statement may be from a third-party professional (school counselors, teachers, clergy, attorneys, therapists, etc.)

**I have attached a statement from the following person:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to you: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**FINAL REQUIREMENT: INITIAL AND SIGN THIS FORM**

\_\_\_\_\_ BY SIGNING THIS WORKSHEET, I CERTIFY THAT ALL INFORMATION REPORTED TO QUALIFY FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID IS COMPLETE AND CORRECT. THE SIGNATURE LISTED BELOW IS THAT OF THE ORIGINAL PERSON. FALSIFYING A SIGNATURE WILL VIOLATE NORTH IDAHO COLLEGE’S CODE OF CONDUCT AND RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

\_\_\_\_\_ I UNDERSTAND IF I PURPOSEFULLY GIVE FALSE INFORMATION ON THIS PETITION, I MAY BE FINED, BE SENT TO JAIL, OR BOTH. NORTH IDAHO COLLEGE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO QUESTION THE VALIDITY OF THIS INFORMATION.

\_\_\_\_\_ I UNDERSTAND THAT AN INCOMPLETE PETITION WILL NOT BE PROCESSED.

I have read and understand the terms of petitioning for independent status. I have attached all required documentation outlined within this form and certify that the information in this petition is true and correct:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student’s Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## 2023-2024 Independent Standard Verification Form

### SECTION (1) STUDENT INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Middle Initial) (Last)

Student ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### SECTION (2) HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION

List the people in your household including:

- **Yourself.**
- **Your Spouse**, if you are married.
- **Your Children**, if any, that you will provide more than half of their support from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, or if the children would be required to provide your information if they were completing a FAFSA for 2023-2024. Include children who meet either of these standards, even if they do not physically live with you.
- **Other People**, if they now live with you and you provide more than half of their support and will continue to provide more than half of their support through June 30, 2024.

Full Name	Age	Relationship to Student	Are They Currently in College or Beginning College in 2023-2024? ➤ Yes – which college? ➤ No – N/A
		STUDENT	NORTH IDAHO COLLEGE

### SECTION (3) TAXABLE INCOME

#### STUDENT 2021 TAX FILING INFORMATION:

Did you or will you file a 2021 US Income Tax Return?

Yes. This information will be or has been provided by either (check one option):

Using the Data Retrieval Tool on the FAFSA to import your taxes from the IRS.

Submitting a 2021 Tax Return Transcript ordered from the IRS at [WWW.IRS.GOV](http://WWW.IRS.GOV).

No. You must submit:

1. A Verification of Non-filing Statement ordered from the IRS using the 4506-T form.
2. All W-2(s) for 2021.

#### SPOUSE 2021 TAX FILING INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE):

Were you and your spouse married on or before December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021?

Yes. If you filed Married Jointly, your spouse's tax information will be included with your FAFSA or Tax Return Transcript. If you filed Separately, your spouse will need to submit a 2021 Tax Return Transcript ordered from the IRS at [WWW.IRS.GOV](http://WWW.IRS.GOV).

No. We will need tax information for your spouse.

Did your spouse or will your spouse file a 2021 US Income Tax Return?

Yes. Your spouse will need to:

Submit a 2021 Tax Return Transcript ordered from the IRS at [WWW.IRS.GOV](http://WWW.IRS.GOV).

No. Your spouse must submit:

1. A Verification of Nonfiling Statement ordered from the IRS using the 4506-T form.
2. All W-2(s) for 2021

### SECTION (4) INITIAL AND SIGN THIS WORKSHEET

**\*\*HAND-WRITTEN SIGNATURES ONLY - DIGITAL/TYPED SIGNATURES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED\*\***

\_\_\_\_\_ BY SIGNING THIS WORKSHEET, I CERTIFY THAT ALL INFORMATION REPORTED TO QUALIFY FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID IS COMPLETE AND CORRECT. THE SIGNATURE LISTED BELOW IS THAT OF THE ORIGINAL PERSON. FALSIFYING A SIGNATURE WILL VIOLATE NORTH IDAHO COLLEGE'S CODE OF CONDUCT AND RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

\_\_\_\_\_ I UNDERSTAND IF I PURPOSEFULLY GIVE FALSE INFORMATION ON THIS WORKSHEET, I MAY BE FINED, BE SENT TO JAIL, OR BOTH. NORTH IDAHO COLLEGE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO QUESTION THE VALIDITY OF THIS INFORMATION AND MAY REQUEST A NEW NOTARIZED STANDARD VERIFICATION FORM.

Student Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_