

2009-2010 Petition for Independent Status

Financial aid regulations emphasize that parents have the primary responsibility for meeting the educational costs of students. If you are considered a dependent student according to the financial aid definition (see below), 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.

Occasionally, due to extraordinary circumstances, students cannot obtain parental information. If you cannot provide parental information for an unusual reason, you may petition for a waiver of federal regulations requiring parental information. **Parents' unwillingness to provide information is not a reason to petition for independent status.**

Students must document that there are compelling reasons in order for a petition for independent status to be approved. For the purpose of overriding dependent student status, **extraordinary circumstances will include, but are not limited to, physical, mental or sexual abuse, or neglect from the parents to the student, whereby student contact with parent(s) would endanger his/her well being.**

Financial aid dependent student definition:

1. You were born **AFTER** January 1, 1986.
2. You will **NOT** be a graduate or professional student.
3. You are **NOT** married.
4. You have **NO** legal dependents or children.
5. You are **NOT** a ward/dependent of the court and both of your parents are living.
6. You are **NOT** currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training.
7. You are **NOT** a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Petition Process:

1. Submit all documentation and completed "Petition for Independent Status" form to the Financial Aid Office.
2. The information will be reviewed by the Financial Aid Office generally within one week of receipt.
3. You will be notified of the decision by mail.

Section I

Last Name

First Name

MI

Social Security Number

Mailing Address

Student ID Number

City

State

Zip

Phone Number

Section II (on separate sheet of paper)

1. Identify the location of both your parents.
2. Describe the last time you had contact with your parents (when, where, and nature of contact).
3. Explain why you cannot obtain parental information to complete your FAFSA.
4. Describe how you have been self-supporting:
 - a. When did you start meeting your expenses without parental support?
 - b. What is the amount and source of your annual income (wages, monetary gifts, etc.)?

NOTE: If you are being financially supported by anyone other than yourself 1) Describe the relationship. 2) How long have you received this support?

Section III

Provide statements from **two** appropriate authorities who are aware of your situation and can corroborate the facts you present. Appropriate authorities include clergy, social worker/personnel, court official, teachers, high school counselors, and/or police officers. Letters must be on official letterhead and have a signature. **OR** Provide legal documents, guardianship, police records, foster home placement documentation etc.

Section IV

1. What amount of financial support have you received from your parents in the last year? \$ _____
2. What other support do you receive from your parents (i.e., health or car insurance, room and board)? Identify type of support and approximate value: _____
3. Provide the following information about your expenses. If any amount is zero, explain the reason. **Provide a copy of your most recent tax return.**

	2006	2007
Housing & Utilities	_____	_____
Food	_____	_____
Transportation (car payment, insurance)	_____	_____
Personal (clothing, etc.)	_____	_____
Total	_____	_____

Section V

I certify that the information provided in this petition is true and correct.

Student Signature

Date

Financial Aid Office Use Only: Approved Denied

Financial Aid Signature

Date

Notification Sent: FAO

Date