



# 2016-2017 Petition for Independent Status

Financial aid regulations emphasize that parent(s) 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.

If your answer to all of the following questions is NO then you are considered dependent for financial aid purposes.

1. Were you born BEFORE January 1, 1993?
2. Are you married?
3. Are you or will you be working on a master's or doctorate program in the 2016-2017 academic year?
4. Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training?
5. Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?
6. Do you have legal dependents or children for whom you support at least 50%?
7. When you were age 13 or older, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care or were you a dependent/ward of the court?
8. Are you an emancipated minor as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?
9. Are you in legal guardianship as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?
10. At any time on or after July 1, 2015, did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless?
11. At any time on or after July 1, 2015, did the director of an emergency shelter program, funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless?
12. At any time on or after July 1, 2015, did the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?

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' out of state residency or unwillingness to provide information as well as a student being self supporting are 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 from the parents to the student, whereby student contact with parent(s) would endanger his/her well being.**

## THE PETITION PROCESS:

1. Complete all sections (1-4) of this form.
2. Provide two statements in support of your independence. (See Section 5 on back).
3. **Complete the Student/Spouse sections** of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov). When prompted to provide parents information, confirm that you will not be providing any parental data.
4. Complete the 16-17 CC Financial Aid form.
5. Bring all four of the above to the Financial Aid Office.
6. Your petition and documentation will be reviewed.
7. You will receive a written notice regarding the denial or approval of your petition.
  - a. If your petition is denied you will need to electronically submit your FAFSA ([www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)) with parental information.
  - b. If your petition is approved, your FAFSA pages will be submitted electronically by the Financial Aid Office for calculation of eligibility.

### Financial Aid Office Use Only

\_\_\_\_\_  
FAO Initial

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Approved

Denied

FAFSA processed

Notification Sent

## Section 1

Last Name	First Name	MI	SSN	
Mailing Address	City	State	Zip	SID
Phone Number	Email Address			

## Section 2

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.)?
  - c. If annual income (stated on line b) is \$6000 or less, please explain how you have met living expenses.

**\*NOTE: If you are being financially supported by anyone other than yourself (i.e., grandparents or other relative) please answer the following 2 questions.**

- 1) Describe the relationship.
- 2) How long have you received this support?

## Section 3

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)?
  - a. Identify type of support and approximate value: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Provide the following information about your expenses. If any amount is zero, explain the reason.

**2015**

Housing & Utilities	_____
Food	_____
Transportation (car payment, insurance)	_____
Personal (clothing, etc.)	_____
<b>Total</b>	_____

4. Provide a copy of your most recent tax return

## Section 4

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

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Section 5

Provide typed 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 typed, on official letterhead, and have a signature. **Letters from relatives will not be accepted.**