



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.

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

1. Were born BEFORE January 1, 1986?
2. Are you married?
3. Are you or will you be working on a master's or doctorate program in the 2009-2010 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, 2008, 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, 2008, 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, 2008, 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 reasons 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 (1-5) on the back of this form.
2. Provide two statements in support of your independence. (See Section 3 on back).
3. **Complete the Student/Spouse sections (pages 3, 4, 5, & 8)** of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) *{pages are downloadable from the Centralia College web site at www.centralia.edu under the forms section of the financial aid page}*
4. Complete the Centralia College Data Sheet.
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 your FAFSA pages will be returned to you. You must then electronically submit your FAFSA (www.fafsa.ed.gov), including parental information, to the processor for calculation of eligibility.
 - b. If your petition is approved, your FAFSA pages will be submitted electronically by the Financial Aid Office for calculation of eligibility.
 - i. By signing this form you certify that you (1) will use federal and/or state student financial aid only to pay the cost of attending an institution of higher education, (2) are not in default on a federal student loan, or have made satisfactory arrangements to repay it, (3) do not owe money back on a federal student grant or have made satisfactory arrangements to repay it, (4) will notify your school if you default on a federal student loan and (5) will not receive a Federal Pell Grant from more than one school for the same period of time.
 - ii. By signing this form you also agree, if asked, to provide information that will verify the accuracy of your completed FAFSA pages. This information may include U.S. income tax forms that you filed or are required to file. Also, you certify that you understand that the Secretary of Education has the authority to verify information reported on the FAFSA with the Internal Revenue Service and other federal agencies.

Section 1

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

Section 2 (on a 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.)?
 - 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?
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Section 3

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. **Letters from relatives will not be accepted.**

Section 4

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 a copy of your most recent tax return
4. Provide the following information about your expenses. If any amount is zero, explain the reason.

2008

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

Section 5

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

Student Signature	Date
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Financial Aid Office Use Only

FAO Initial	Date	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied	<input type="checkbox"/> FAFSA processed	<input type="checkbox"/> Notification Sent
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