



# 2026-2027 Unusual Circumstances/ Dependency Override Petition

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, 2003?
2. Are you married (not separated)
3. Are you or will you be working on a master's or doctorate program in the 2026-2027 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 who receive more than half of their support from you?
7. At any point since you turned the age of 13, 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, 2025, were you unaccompanied and either 1) homeless or 2) self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?

Occasionally, due to unusual circumstances, students cannot obtain parental information. If your reason OR your marital status has changed since your initial application, 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 a dependency override.**

Students must document that there are compelling reasons in order for a unusual circumstances/dependency override petition to be approved. For the purpose of overriding dependent student status, **unusual 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.**

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## THE PETITION PROCESS:

1. Complete all sections (1-5) of this form.
2. Provide two statements in support of your independence or marriage certificate for marital change. (See Section 4 on back).
3. **Complete the student sections** of the 2026-2027 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov). When asked whether you have unusual circumstances, indicate **Yes** that you do.
4. Complete the 2026-2027 CC Financial Aid form.
5. Bring your documents to the Financial Aid Office and submit for review.
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 make a correction to your FAFSA ([www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov)), adding parental demographic and income information, and parent consent/signature.
  - b. If your petition is approved, your FAFSA will be updated electronically by the Financial Aid Office for calculation of eligibility.

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### Financial Aid Office Use Only

\_\_\_\_\_  Approved  Denied  Homeless/risk of being homeless - FAA PJ  Notification Sent  
 FAO Initial                      Date

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## Section 1

Last Name

First Name

MI

SSN

Address

City

State

Zip

ctcLink ID

Phone Number

Email

DOB (mm/dd/yyyy format)

## Section 2

Provide a written letter that explains your relationship with your parent(s) and your ability to support yourself financially. Include the following information in your letter:

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.)?

**\*If you are being financially supported by anyone other than yourself (e.g., grandparents or other relative) or you are now married, please answer the following questions.**

- 1) Describe the relationship.
- 2) How long have you received this support?
- 3) **For marital change**, detail how long your spouse has been helping you and providing support.

Provide the following information about your (and spouses if married) financial situation:

1. What amount of financial support have you received from your parents or spouse in the last year? \$ \_\_\_\_\_
2. What other support do you receive from your parents or spouse (i.e., health or car insurance, room and board)?
  - a. Identify type of support and approximate value: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Provide a copy of your 2024 and 2025 tax return if you filed. Provide a copy of your 2024/2025 W-2 form(s) if you earned income, yet did not file a tax return. **If you are now married, provide a copy of your spouse's 2024 and 2025 tax return(s) or W2 form(s) if he/she/they did not file taxes, yet had earnings. Spousal income will be added to the FAFSA if your petition for independence is granted.**
4. Fill out section 5 of this form – providing in depth information about your 2025 living expenses and income.

## Section 3

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

Student Signature

Date

## Section 4

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. For marital status change, provide a copy of your marriage certificate.**

**Section 5**

**Monthly Living Expenses for 2025**

Next to each item, fill in the dollar amount of your **average monthly** living expenses for the 2025 calendar year. If you shared living expenses with others, indicate only that portion which was yours. If an expense occurred, other than monthly, please convert it to a monthly average. Report only your living expenses. Fill in all items. If an item does not apply, indicate this by writing "N/A".

<i>Living expenses paid:</i>	<i>Student/Spouse</i>
Home mortgage/rent	\$ _____
Utilities (phone, electric/gas, water, garbage, etc.)	\$ _____
Food & household supplies	\$ _____
Clothing	\$ _____
Transportation (e.g.: gas, auto maintenance, etc.)	\$ _____
Insurance (home, car, health, life, etc.)	\$ _____
Car payments	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL AVERAGE MONTHLY LIVING EXPENSES IN 2025</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

**Sources of Monthly Income for 2025**

List all sources of income that were used to meet the living expenses you listed in the previous section.

<i>Sources of income:</i>	<i>Student/Spouse</i>
Wages/salary (provide W2 form or pay stub)	\$ _____
Unemployment benefits	\$ _____
Disability/Social Security benefits	\$ _____
Worker's compensation (L & I)	\$ _____
Cash received, or money paid on your behalf by others (e.g.: grocery money, rent, etc.)	\$ _____
Financial aid	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL AVERAGE MONTHLY INCOME IN 2025</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

**Explanation/additional information**

Please provide any additional information that would help us understand how you (and spouse if married) meet your current living expenses. If you now have income that you did not have during the 2024 or the 2025 year, please explain here. If you need additional space to write, please attach additional pages.

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