

**2024-2025**

## Request for Dependency Override

Based on Federal regulations, a student is considered dependent on his/her parents for financial aid purposes unless the student can answer "Yes" to one of the following questions:

- Were you born before January 1, 2001?
- As of today, are you married? (Also answer "Yes" if you are separated but not divorced.)
- At the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year, will you be working on a master's or doctorate program (such as an MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD, graduate certificate, etc.)?
- Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training?
- Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?
- Do you have children who will receive more than half of their support from you between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025?
- Do you have dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you, now and through June 30, 2025?
- At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care or were you a dependent or ward of the court?
- As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, are you or were you an emancipated minor?
- As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, are you or were you in legal guardianship?
- At any time on or after July 1, 2023, did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless?
- At any time on or after July 1, 2023, did the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless?
- At any time on or after July 1, 2023, 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?

However, the Higher Education Act allows a financial aid administrator to make dependency overrides on a case-by-case basis for students with unusual circumstances. None of the conditions listed below, individually or in combination, qualify as unusual circumstances meriting a dependency override:

1. Parents refuse to contribute to the student's education;
2. Parents are unwilling to provide information on the FAFSA or for verification;
3. Parents do not claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes; or
4. Student demonstrates total self-sufficiency.

**Unusual circumstances do include an abusive family environment or abandonment by parents and may cause any of the above conditions. In such cases a dependency override might be warranted. Generally, the documentation of unusual circumstances should come from a third party who knows the student's situation (such as a teacher or a member of the clergy).**

You have indicated that you are requesting a dependency override. **You must provide a detailed explanation to support your request.** Third-party documentation (statement from teacher, minister, high school counselor, therapist, etc.) must be submitted with your request. The decision made by the **Financial Aid Office will be final.**

**(OVER→)**

