



**2025-2026
Dependency Override**

**Financial Aid
Office
Use**

You were granted temporary/provisional Independence for purposes of filing federal financial aid. You will need to provide further proof to this office, so that federal aid can be awarded for this term. **This does NOT affect STATE AID.**
Failure to provide this proof will result in no eligibility for a federal Pell award.

FEDERAL DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE 2025-2026

Student Name (First, Middle, Last)

Email

Phone

COVER PAGE

1. Include this page as the first page of your request.

LETTER FROM THE STUDENT

1. Explain the extenuating circumstances that were beyond your control.
2. Describe your current living situation.
3. Summarize your method of financial support since leaving your parents' home.

AT LEAST TWO LETTERS FROM INDEPENDENT THIRD PARTIES

1. Include a signed letter from an independent third party who can support /verify your circumstances. Third parties include adults who are familiar with your situation, such as a counselor, teacher, clergy, and attorney. Third parties do not include your parents or adult relatives besides your parents. Letters must be signed and also on letterhead if the third party is a professional (ex. school counselor).
2. Include a second signed letter from a different third party who can also support and verify your circumstances. If this is not possible, you can substitute a signed letter from an adult relative besides your parents who can support and verify your circumstances. Letters must be signed and also on letterhead if the third party is a professional (ex. school counselor).
3. Any additional signed letters of support per your discretion (optional). Letters must be signed and also on letterhead if the third party is a professional (ex. school counselor).

SIGNATURE CERTIFICATION

By signing below, I certify that this request for a dependency override does not include any false or misleading information.

Student Signature

Date



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Information Page**

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Federal Aid Programs include Pell, Student Loans, Work-study, Parent PLUS Loans, etc. When awarding these aid programs, the federal government classifies all students as either *dependent* upon their parents for aid purposes or *independent*. Dependent students are required to include parental information on their FAFSA, while independent students are not. By default, the federal government considers all students dependent for financial aid purposes unless the student meets one of the following conditions:

- Satisfies one of the federal automatic criteria for independence; or
- Extenuating circumstances beyond a student's control warrant a dependency override

Note: a student's dependency status for aid purposes is different than their status for tax purposes. Because of this, a student can be considered independent for tax purposes, yet dependent for aid.

AUTOMATIC CRITERIA

These are criteria that automatically make a student independent for federal aid. No Parent information would be required on a FAFSA.

1. Born before January 1, 2001
2. Married or graduate student
3. Serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training
4. A veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces
5. Have children or other dependents who will receive more than half of their support from the student
6. An orphan, ward of the court, or in foster care at any time since age 13
7. Emancipated minor as determined by a court in the student's state of legal residence
8. In legal guardianship as determined by a court in the student's state of legal residence
9. Unaccompanied homeless youth, determined by high school homeless liaison, director of an emergency shelter, or director of runaway youth basic center

DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE

Federal regulations allow college aid offices to use professional judgment to grant dependency overrides on a case-by-case basis for students with extenuating circumstances beyond their control that are documented by Independent third-party sources. Federal regulations specifically state that none of the conditions listed below, singly or in combination, qualify as circumstances meriting a dependency override:

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

Examples of circumstances that may merit a dependency override include a physically or sexually abusive family environment, abandonment by parents, parental drug or alcohol addiction, or other documented extenuating circumstances that are beyond a student's control. These circumstances generally create a situation in which it is in the best interest of the student to be in little to no contact with the parents again. Follow the instructions on the reverse side to request a dependency override.