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Office of Financial Aid Application for Independent Student Status 2019-2020

When you apply for federal student aid, your answers to certain questions will determine whether you are considered a dependent of your parent(s) or independent. Students are classified as dependent or independent because federal student aid programs are based on the idea that students, and their parent(s) or spouse, have the primary responsibility for paying for their post-secondary education.

You are automatically considered an independent student if one of the following applies to you when you submit your 2019-20 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):

- You were born before January 1, 1996.
- You are married.
- You are enrolled in a graduate or professional program beyond a bachelor's degree.
- You have a child who receives more than half of his or her support from you between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.
- You have dependents (other than your child or spouse) who live with you and receive more than 50% of their support from you, now and through June 30, 2020.
- You became an orphan, were in foster care or were a dependent/ward of the court between the ages of 13-18.
- You are/were an emancipated minor as determined by a court in your state of residence.
- You are/were in legal guardianship as determined by a court in your state of residence.
- You were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless, or at risk of being homeless as determined by your high school liaison, emergency shelter, transitional housing program, or homeless youth shelter director at any time after July 1, 2016.
- You are currently serving on active duty in the US Armed Forces for purposes other than training.
- You are a veteran of the U. S. Armed Forces.

The federal government allows a financial aid administrator to make dependency overrides on a case-by-case basis for students with unusual circumstances. If the administrator judges that an override is appropriate, he/she must document the unusual circumstances. None of the conditions listed below, singly or in combination, qualify as unusual circumstances or merit a dependency override:

- 1) Parents refuse to contribute to the student's education.
- 2) Parents are unwilling to provide information on the application or for verification.
- 3) Parents do not claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes.
- 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. If you believe you have experienced such unusual circumstances, then you are encouraged to complete this application for a dependency override. **Students must apply for a dependency override each year and at each institution that they wish to consider their special circumstance.**

Please provide all information requested by this form together with documentation you feel supports your application. By providing all information at the onset, a decision can be made in a timely manner. In some situations, additional documentation may be requested causing your application to be delayed until that information is provided. All information will remain strictly confidential.

You are asked to provide the following documents with this application:

- 1) Completed Application for Independent Status.
- 2) Completed paper FAFSA
- 3) Signed and dated letters explaining your family situation from each of the following:
 - a. You, the student
 - b. A professional (on letterhead), i.e., a counselor, minister, doctor, lawyer, etc.
 - c. Another adult reference.
- 4) Supporting court documents, if applicable.
- 5) If you are **reapplying** for independent status at ICC, items from above step 3b. and 3c. are waived.



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**Office of Student Financial Aid
Application for Independent Student Status
2019-2020**

(Circle One): New application / Renewal Application

Student Information: (Please Print)

Name: _____

Student ID Number: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Marital Status: _____

Phone: _____

Parental Information:

Mother's Marital Status (Check One Only)

Father's Marital Status (Check One Only)

- Never Married
- Married / Remarried
- Separated
- Divorced
- Widowed
- Unknown
- My mother is deceased

- Never Married
- Married / Remarried
- Separated
- Divorced
- Widowed
- Unknown
- My father is deceased

Last year you lived with a parent: (Month/Year) _____

Comments (attach separate sheet if more space is needed): _____

By signing below, you certify that all of the information provided in regard to your application for independent status is complete and correct. The Financial Aid Administrator's decision is final for the 2018-19 award year.

Student
Signature: X _____ Date: _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

- Approved
- Denied

Date: _____

FAA: _____