

DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE APPLICATION / UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH

Student Name: _____ **Student SWIC ID:** _____

You may complete this form to request special consideration for independent status in determining financial aid eligibility. Although you do not meet the federal requirements to be considered an independent student, you believe your particular circumstances warrant our review.

Please note, federal regulations ***DO NOT*** warrant the following circumstances for a dependency override:

- Parents unwilling/unable to contribute to student's education
- Parents unwilling to provide information for the FAFSA or verification
- Parents do not claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes
- Student demonstrates self-sufficiency and/or does not reside with parents

This request will be submitted to a committee that will determine on a case-by-case basis if evidence provided justifies an independent status. Review may take 2-3 weeks after all required documentation has been submitted. All updates and notifications regarding the outcome of the review will be sent to the SWIC student e-mail.

Review and complete the following before submitting your application:

Select the situation that applies to you:

Dependency Override

For students who have unusual circumstances that prevent them from contacting a parent, such as parental neglect, abuse, or abandonment.

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

For students who are unaccompanied and homeless, or at risk of being homeless, on or after July 1, 2023. I certify that I am both:

- Unaccompanied – not living in the physical custody of a parent or guardian
- Homeless or at risk of being homeless – lacking fixed, regular, and adequate housing (includes living in shelters, parks, motels, hotels, public spaces, camping grounds, cars, abandoned buildings, or temporary living with other people because of having nowhere else to go).

Complete and Submit the FAFSA:

If you have not done so already, complete and submit the 24-25 FAFSA online at studentaid.gov. We will not accept your request for review without a FAFSA on file.

Complete the following items on the next page in the applicable section for your situation:

I certify that all the information provided on the attached documents is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I agree to provide additional information if requested by the Office of Financial Aid, Veteran Services and Student Employment. I understand that if the information provided is incomplete or lacks the required documentation, it will delay the processing of my file.

Student Signature _____ **Date** _____

Dependency Override:**Personal Statement:**

Attach a typed, signed, and dated explanation of your unusual circumstances. This statement must include a complete history detailing your relationship with BOTH of your biological and/or legally adoptive parents; specific dates of the events that caused your separation from your parents; where you have lived since separating from your parents; and how you have supported yourself while living apart from your parents.

Professional Third-party Statement:

Provide at least one signed statement from a third-party reference on official letterhead who can verify the unusual family circumstances you have described that speaks to both parents. The third-party reference cannot be a family member. Third-party references can include a high school counselor, teacher, clergy member, counselor, social worker, physician, child and family service agencies or law enforcement officers. Police reports may in some cases substitute for the statement.

Informal Third-party Statement (optional):

Provide at least one signed statement from another individual affirming your family circumstances you have described that speaks to both parents. This statement can come from a relative, friend, or friend of the family.

OR

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (Provisionally Independent):**Letter of Determination:**

Attach a letter of determination from one of the following organizations or persons who determined you to be homeless or at risk of becoming homeless (select one).

A high school or school district homeless liaison or designee

A director or designee of an emergency or transitional shelter, street outreach program, homeless youth drop-in center, or another program serving those who are experiencing homelessness

A director or designee of a project supported by a federal TRIO or GEAR UP program grant

A Financial Aid Administrator (FAA) at another institution of higher education

OR

If you are unable to obtain a letter of determination please submit the following:

Personal Statement:

Attach a typed, signed, and dated explanation of your unusual circumstances. This statement must include an account of your current situation, timeline and events leading up to your current situation, challenges and impact, and efforts made to secure housing.

Professional Third-party Statement:

Provide at least one signed statement from a third-party reference on official letterhead who can verify the circumstances you have described. The third-party reference cannot be a family member. Third-party references can include a high school counselor, teacher, clergy member, counselor, social worker, physician, child and family service agencies or law enforcement officers.

Informal Third-party Statement (optional):

Provide a signed statement from another individual affirming your circumstances. This statement can come from a relative, friend, or friend of the family.