



2009-2010 PETITION FOR EVALUATION OF DEPENDENCY STATUS

The Department of Education determines a student's status as dependent or independent based on the answers the student provides on the questions listed on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

SELF-SUFFICIENCY of the student or PARENTAL UNWILLINGNESS to provide required information on the FAFSA are not sufficient reasons for determining a student as independent. There are, however, situations where a student may have unusual circumstances in which he/she may be considered independent.

The following information covers the procedure to determine a student's eligibility for a "Dependency Override." The Financial Aid Office will review the appeal by examining the supporting documentation provided by the student, and based on professional judgment, will either approve or deny the student's request.

PLEASE NOTE: THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICER'S DECISION IS FINAL AND CANNOT BE APPEALED TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

The following circumstances will be given consideration for a "dependency override:"

- 1. A student's voluntary or involuntary removal from the parents' home due to an extreme situation that threatened the student's health and/or safety; and, due to these conditions, parent support was terminated.
2. Incapacity of parent(s) such as incarceration, mental or physical illness.
3. Other extenuating circumstances that can be sufficiently documented.

Please read and provide the following information:

I am requesting that the Financial Aid Office at Ventura College evaluate my dependency status. To support this request, I will provide ALL of the following documents:

- 1. This petition form, along with my letter of explanation. On a separate sheet of paper, explain your circumstances in detail. Include documentation to support your explanation.
2. Supporting letters from professional sources (i.e., statements from counselors, teachers, psychologists, psychiatrists, pastor/priest) who are knowledgeable regarding your situation. All letters MUST be on company letterhead with name, address, and telephone number of the person providing the information (the Financial Aid Officer MUST approve all other supporting letters [i.e., relatives and/or friends]).
3. 2008 Federal Tax return and/or documentation of other untaxed income received in 2008.

I will bring ALL required documentation on the date of my appointment with the Financial Aid Officer. I understand that failure to bring all information may result in rescheduling of my appointment. I further understand that the Financial Aid Officer will evaluate all documentation submitted to determine my dependency status, and the petition may be denied.

I certify that all of the information submitted is true and correct. I further understand that if my petition is granted and I receive any federal financial aid funds, any false statements or documentation submitted will result in immediate repayment of the funds and my information will be reported to the U.S. Department of Education Fraud Unit.

Student's Name (please print)

Social Security Number and/or ID number

Student's Signature

Date