

2021-2022 Dependency Status Appeal Form

Student ID Number _____ Email: _____

Student's Full Legal Name: _____
(Please print clearly) Last First Middle

Under federal guidelines, most undergraduate students are considered dependent on their parents until age 24, and financial aid eligibility is calculated using parent financial information. However, a student may have extenuating circumstances that require consideration for independent status.

Allowable reasons include such situations as **abuse, abandonment**, or other **irreconcilable differences** within the family.

If you feel your situation meets one of these criteria, we encourage you to submit a dependency appeal. Please allow two weeks for appeal processing.

In addition to this form, the following items are required for the appeal:

1. A **signed, detailed** letter from you, the student, explaining the extenuating circumstances, including your relationship with either your **biological or adoptive parents**. Please also include an explanation of where you expect to receive your financial support for the next school year.
2. A **separate** letter from an independent 3rd party source (ex. counselor, medical authority, clergy, court, government agency) who can attest first-hand to your circumstances. This letter must include as much detail about the situation as possible.
3. If you cannot provide a letter from an independent source, please explain why in your appeal letter. You may then submit a signed letter from another source in its place.

Please keep in mind that parents' unwillingness or inability to contribute to your education are not considered extenuating circumstances.

You, the student, must also submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on-line at studentaid.gov. To be considered for maximum financial aid, **you must submit the FAFSA by March 1, 2021**. In the Dependency Status section of the FAFSA, answer the dependency questions and then indicate on the following questions that you have a special circumstance and cannot provide parent information.

When you submit the FAFSA, it will not calculate an expected family contribution (EFC). If the dependency appeal is approved, our office will update the FAFSA allowing the EFC calculation.

If I purposely give false or misleading information, I may receive a fine, a prison sentence, or both. By signing this form, I certify that all information is complete and correct.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Electronic signature is not allowed

(Please Note: We suggest using our secure [document uploader](#) or fax as a more secure method of delivery. Virginia Tech does not open email attachments.)