

## 2009-2010 DEPENDENCY STATUS PETITION

### Criteria for Determining Independent Student Status

The federal methodology assumes that the primary responsibility for paying college costs with the rest with the family. Federal regulations permit the University to exercise professional judgment in determining if **unusual or extenuating** circumstances can be documented to consider the student independent for federal financial aid purposes. This determination is made on a case by case basis.

#### What Does **Not** Constitute Unusual or Extenuating Circumstances:

- A parent refusing to provide data.
- A student who does not want to ask parents for information.
- A student who has been “on their own” for several years.
- A student who does not communicate with parents.
- A student who has been previously considered independent for the purpose of receiving financial aid but does not meet the current definition for 2009-2010.
- A student who is divorced/widowed at the time of filing and does not meet one of the current definitions for 2009-2010.

#### Student Instructions

- Complete the attached Dependency Status Petition
- Secure written documentation from appropriate persons and/or agencies confirming the specifics as identified via the petition.
  - Documentation must be either on official letterhead or notarized.
  - Letters detailing the history of the student/parent relationship should be provided by:
    - The parent (if possible)
    - An adult relative (24 years or older), specify relationship to you.
    - An adult professional, such as a high school counselor, doctor, minister, lawyer, social agencies, etc.
- Attach documentation showing resources for 2009 (i.e. 2008 Federal Income Tax Return, 2008 W2 statement, or other proof of resources.)

#### Review of Unusual or Extenuating Circumstances

Each person will be reviewed on a case by case basis by the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships. Professional judgment will be exercised in determining if an unusual or extenuating circumstance exists and if adequate documentation has been provided. The student will be notified of the decision within 10 business days.

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Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ UIN: \_\_\_\_\_

Explain the circumstances that make it impossible for your parent(s) to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). *Attach additional pages if needed.*

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Explain how you are meeting your living expenses without parental assistance. *Attach additional pages if needed.*

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*I declare under penalty of perjury that the information provided for this petition is true and correct.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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*Office Use Only*

Reviewed by \_\_\_\_\_

Accepted \_\_\_\_\_

Denied \_\_\_\_\_

Letter Sent \_\_\_\_\_