



## Financial Aid: Appeal to Dependency Status for 2022-2023 Award Year

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Unless you meet one of the following criteria for independent status, your parent(s) must normally provide income and asset information on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and must sign it:

- You were born before January 1, 1997.
- You are currently working on a degree beyond a bachelor's program, such as a master's or doctoral program.
- As of the date of filing the FAFSA, you are married.
- You have children who will receive more than half of their support from you between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023.
- You have dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and will receive more than half of their support from you, now and through June 30, 2023.
- You are currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training.
- You are a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces (See FAFSA instructions for definition).
- You are, or were at the time you became an adult, an emancipated minor as determined by a court in your state of legal residency.
- At any time after July 1, 2022, you were determined by the director of a homeless shelter or your school district homeless liaison to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or at risk of being homeless.
- At any time since turning 13, your parents were both deceased, you were in foster care, or you were a dependent or ward of the court.
- Someone other than your parent or stepparent has legal guardianship of you as determined by a court in your state of legal residence.

### Appeal to Dependency Status

An appeal to your dependency status may be warranted if an unusual, mitigating circumstance exists between you and your parent(s). This cannot be based on whether your parent(s) wants to complete the form or wants to provide you with the help to pay for college expenses (see bottom of page). It must be based on an unusual circumstance. Possible reasons that might warrant an appeal to your dependency status are listed below:

1. Your parent(s) is/are incarcerated.
2. Your parent(s) live(s) in a war-torn country, and you are unable to communicate/correspond with them.
3. Your parent(s) is/are mentally incapacitated.
4. You are estranged from your parent(s) because of an abusive relationship.
5. Other mitigating circumstances as documented by the applicant.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this form entirely and provide all required documentation. Appeals that do not include the required documentation will not be considered.

As of today, are you 18 years of age or older? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Have you previously appealed your dependency status at WCC? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

**Description of Dependency Status**

Please provide a **typed detailed explanation** of the circumstance that is the basis for this appeal. Include the reason for why you are not able to provide parental information on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

Please note that the following reasons are NOT appropriate basis for an appeal of your dependency status:

- **Parents refuse to contribute to the student’s educational expenses.**
- **Parents are unwilling to provide information on the FAFSA or for verification.**
- **Parents do not claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes.**
- **Student demonstrates total self-sufficiency.**

**Parental Information**

What is your father’s current marital status? Please circle one:

Single      Separated      Married      Divorced      Widowed      Unknown

What is your mother’s current marital status? Please circle one:

Single      Separated      Married      Divorced      Widowed      Unknown

Mother’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother’s Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Father’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Father’s Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parental Information (continued)**

**Please answer the following questions:**

Did you live with a parent during the 2021 calendar year? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  
If no, when did you last live with a parent? \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of last contact with parent(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Do you receive financial support or gifts from your parent(s)? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  
If yes, please list the approximate value of support received last year: \_\_\_\_\_

**Employment History**

Are you currently employed? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  
If no, please describe how you meet your current living expenses: \_\_\_\_\_

**Supporting Documentation**

- If you are currently employed, please provide a letter from your employer indicating the average number of hours that you work each week and current hourly rate.
- Please provide at least **two letters** from two separate **third-party** sources confirming your statements regarding your situation. **Examples** of an acceptable third-party source **may** include counselors or teachers, clergy, community groups, government agencies, medical personnel, court, or prison administrators, human services agent, homeless shelter administrator, etc. This person should present only the facts and details considered necessary to verify your statements. This should not take the form of a personal recommendation or request for financial aid assistance, but rather should only address the circumstances surrounding your history and current living situation. Letters must be printed on third party agency letterhead. These letters must be submitted with this appeal. If you are unable to provide a letter from a third party, please provide a detailed, written letter explaining your situation and why you cannot provide third-party documentation.
- Legal documents that support the statements you have made regarding your situation (court documents, death certificate, etc.).

***My signature certifies that the information in this appeal is true and correct and that I am providing an accurate description of my personal situation. I understand that purposely giving false or misleading information could result in a fine, imprisonment or both as it relates to my reporting information to the U.S. Department of Education.***

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_