

Unusual Circumstances (Dependency Overrides)

All applicants who are applying for federal student aid are considered either "dependent" or "independent" on their FAFSA. Dependent students are required to provide information about their parent(s) on the FAFSA. If you can answer "yes" to any of the questions below, then you are may considered an "independent student." Some of the circumstances require additional documentation to support your dependency appeal.

A student that is unable to answer "yes" to any of the questions below but are not able to provide parental information on the FAFSA can apply for a Dependency Override or a Parent Refusal depending on your circumstance. There is no guarantee with appealing that your appeal will be granted.

Dependency Question	Documentation Needed with Appeal
Will you be 24 or older by December 31 st of the year you are applying for financial aid?	No documentation is needed as you will be seen as independent.
As of the day you complete your FAFSA, are you married or separated but not divorced?	No documentation is needed as you will be seen as independent.
Are you currently on active duty or a Veteran?	A copy of your DD-214.
Do you have or will have children who receive more than half of their support from you?	No documentation is needed as you will be seen as independent.
Do you have dependents (other than children or a spouse) that live with you and receive more than half of their support from you?	A letter explaining who you are supporting and that is more than 50% during the FAFSA year you are applying for.
At any time since you turned age 13, were both of your parents deceased, were you in foster care, or were you a ward or dependent of the court?	You will need to turn in legal court papers and/or death certificates to support this.
Did the courts determine you as an	You will need to turn in legal court papers to support

emancipated minor or are you in a legal guardianship?	this.
Are you an unaccompanied youth who is homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?	You will need a staff member or counselor from the homeless shelter you are staying at to supply a letter of explanation to NTI. An unbiased third party letter such as a HS counselor, therapist, or counselor could be supplied if you are not physically staying in a homeless shelter. We would also like a letter of explanation from the student too, explaining their current living situation.

Dependency Overrides (Appealing for Independent Status)

Dependent students can be declared independent by the financial aid office if there are unusual or extenuating circumstances. Before the financial aid office will grant a dependency override, the student must be able to provide an unbiased third party letter explaining in detail the situation between the student and their parent(s). The student would also need to write a letter of explanation of their relationship between them and their parent(s). Whenever possible please submit any additional documentation that you may have such as police report(s), and or court order restraining orders. All decisions regarding such requests are at the discretion of the financial aid office and cannot be appealed unless there is more supporting documentation submitted.

What is an extenuating circumstance?

Dependency overrides most common reason for approval is in the case of abandonment or parental abuse.

Dependency overrides are not approved because the student is self-supporting, the parent(s) do not claim the student on their taxes, and or the parent refuses to provide their information on the FAFSA and does not financial support the student.

Parent Refusal

There may be some situations, in which a student cannot provide parental information on their FAFSA and does not meet any of the criteria above for a dependency override. Students may receive Unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan funds at a dependent undergraduate level. We would require a letter from both parent(s) if applicable stating that they are refusing to assist on the FAFSA, and that they do not support the student financial. The student would also need to write a letter of explanation. Until the documentation has been reviewed by our Financial Aid Office there is no guarantee this will be approved.