



2017-2018 DEPENDENCY STATUS APPEAL

Student Name: _____ **Student ID or SSN:** _____

You may have indicated on the 2017-2018 Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA that you have special circumstances and submitted your FAFSA without parental information. The US Department of Education does allow financial aid administrators to use professional judgment in cases where extenuating circumstances prevent a student from being able to provide parental information on the FAFSA, commonly referred to as a dependency status appeal or override.

The following are situations that would not be considered a special circumstance for dependency status appeal:

1. your parents do not claim you as a dependent on their income taxes
2. you do not live with your parents and/or you and your parents are having a disagreement
3. your parents refuse to provide their information on your FAFSA
4. your parents do not contribute to your college expenses and/or you are self supporting

If 1 and/or 2 above apply to you, you do not qualify for dependency appeal/override consideration and must update your 2017-2018 FAFSA at www.fafsa.gov with parental information and the signature of at least one parent. **If 3 and 4 above apply to you and you want to be considered for only an unsubsidized student loan**, you should instead update your FAFSA to indicate *this special circumstance* (parental information will not be required on the FAFSA, but you will be sent by our office a different form to complete). When we receive an acknowledgement from the federal processor that your FAFSA has been updated, we will continue processing your 2017-2018 aid application.

In very limited cases, an otherwise dependent student may be able to submit the FAFSA without parental information due to special circumstances, including:

- your parents are incarcerated; or
- you have left home due to an abusive family environment; or
- you do not know where your parents are, are unable to contact them, and you have not been adopted.

Before pursuing a dependency appeal, you are strongly encouraged to discuss your situation with the UW Colleges Student Financial Aid Office. Please contact the SFA Office at 608.262.5928. If after the discussion you believe you meet the standards for dependency override consideration, your case will have to be verified. **Attach all supporting documentation to this form. If submitted without documentation, this form will be returned to you.** Submit the following for your appeal:

1. A signed personal statement outlining the mitigating circumstances and why you should be considered independent, including your current living situation and how you are supporting yourself
2. Letters from two professional sources (high school guidance counselor, clergy, social worker/caseworker, counselor/therapist, doctor, attorney, teacher/professor, university administrator, supervisor/employer)
3. Letter from a relative (not a parent) or a person close to you (not a roommate) who knows your situation in detail
4. Any other supporting written evidence, such as court or law enforcement documents

Letters from others submitted on your behalf should be on official letterhead, if appropriate, and include:

- the length of time and nature of the writer's relationship to you and his/her knowledge of your situation
- the reason why you cannot provide your parents' information on the FAFSA/why you should be independent
- the writer's name, address, telephone number, and signature

Upon receipt of your documentation, it may be necessary to request additional information to clarify or supplement information already submitted. You will be notified if additional documentation is needed.

Signature/Certification

I certify that all information reported to qualify for financial aid is complete and correct. I understand if I reestablish contact with my parents, including but not limited to living with them or accepting their support, I must notify the Student Financial Aid Office immediately.

Student Signature (handwritten, not typed)

Date

Submit form to:

UW Colleges Student Financial Aid Office
780 Regent St, Suite 130
Madison, WI 53715-2635