

2023-24 Dependency Override Information

Federal financial aid regulations assume that a student's family has primary responsibility for meeting educational costs. If you are considered a dependent student according to the federal financial aid definition, your aid eligibility is determined using parent income and asset information in addition to your information.

What makes a student Dependent or Independent?

Your student dependency status is determined by the U.S. Department of Education, based on your responses to specific questions on the FAFSA. For financial aid purposes, federal regulations have defined an independent student as one who meets *AT LEAST ONE* of the following conditions:

- Born before January 1, 2000
- Married as of the date FAFSA signed
- Have a dependent (other than your children or spouse) who will live with you and who will receive more than half of their support from you, now through June 30, 2024.
- Have or will have children who will receive more than half of their support from you between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024. This support includes living with the child in a residence separate from your parent and paying rent and other expenses related to the child. Child support is not considered more than 50% of the child's support.
- Attending graduate level program of study during the 2023-24 academic year
- Veteran of U.S. Armed Forces (or will be a veteran as of June 30, 2023), or have attended a service academy and were released under a condition other than dishonorable.*
- Currently serving on active duty in U.S. Armed Forces (other than for training) or reserves*
- Emancipated Minor or in Legal Guardianship as determined by the court in her/his state of legal residence
- Orphan, ward of the court, foster care (after age 13)
- A self-supporting unaccompanied youth who is homeless or at risk of homelessness (as certified by governmental or school agency)

A student who does not meet **ANY** of the above classifications is classified as a Dependent student.

* See 22 23 FAFSA for specific guidance on Veteran Status.

What is a Dependency Override?

A dependency override occurs when a financial aid administrator exercises professional judgment and overrides the Department of Education's criteria for dependent students. An override may only be granted on a case-by-case basis for students with unusual & exceptional circumstances. These circumstances must show compelling reason for a student to be considered independent rather than dependent.

What conditions *COULD* warrant a Dependency Override?

The following are some examples of conditions that could warrant a Dependency Override:

- Documented abandonment
- Parental drug use
- Parental mental incapacity
- Physical or emotional abuse
- Severe estrangement from parents
- Parental incarceration
- You are a non U.S. Citizen (who is otherwise eligible to receive federal financial aid) and your parents currently reside in a foreign county and you are not able to obtain parental information because of long standing political policy or civil unrest in the country in which your parent lives.

What conditions *DO NOT* warrant a Dependency Override?

By federal law, the following conditions *DO NOT* warrant a Dependency Override:

- Parents refuse to provide information on the FAFSA application or for verification
- Parents do not claim student as dependent for income tax purposes
- Parents unwilling or unable to contribute to student's education
- Student demonstrates self-sufficiency
- Student reluctant to request the income information from parents
- Student does not wish to communicate with parents

After reviewing this information if you wish to pursue a dependency appeal please complete the following requests for information to support your appeal.