Parents and their students have the primary responsibility to pay for the student’s education. A parent’s unwillingness to provide financial information or financial support is not grounds for a change in dependency status. However, sometimes there is an unintentional, involuntary or uncontrollable break in family relationship. If this has occurred, you may be eligible to receive a professional judgment changing your status to independent.

One example of why you might be eligible for a dependency override: Your custodial parent has dies and the other natural parent cannot be found. Your family situation is unreasonable. This might be result of physical abuse, emotional abuse or drug and/or alcohol abuse. In some cases a professional may have counseled you to live away from your parent(s).

Please read the following instructions:

- Write a letter explaining your situation
- Head the letter with your name, social security number or student ID number.
- Provide all of your contact information in case we need to contact you for further information.
- Attach one letter (on official letterhead, if possible) from a minister, social worker, psychologist, high school counselor, teacher, doctor or other professional explaining the situation in detail.
- Attach two or more of the following:
  - A letter from a third party (friend or non-family member)
  - Police report(s)
  - Court report(s)
  - Documentation from a social agency

The more documentation you can present, the better your chances are to be made independent.

*Remember, a new dependency override must completed each academic year.*

If you have questions, you can reach our office at (541) 962-3550 or (800) 452-8639 between 8 AM and 5 PM Monday through Friday (Pacific Time).

Once you have all of your documentation, you can fax or mail them to our office at:

Eastern Oregon University
Financial Aid Office
One University Blvd.
La Grande, Or 97850
Fax: (541) 962-3661
Email us at: fao@eou.edu