



If you received a determination that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless, DO NOT complete this form. Instead, complete the homeless verification form (eou.edu/financial-aid/forms).

Student First and Last Name: _____ EOU Student ID: 910-_____

Phone Number: _____ Date of Birth: _____ EOU E-mail: _____@eou.edu

Introduction, Authority, and Definitions

Federal student aid programs are based on the principle that the primary responsibility for financing your education lies with your family. Many self-supporting students incorrectly assume themselves to be independent. Unless you can answer yes to at least one question under the personal circumstances section of the FAFSA, federal law requires parental information on your FAFSA and you will be considered a dependent student for financial aid purposes.

Financial aid administrators have the authority, through Section 480(d)(7) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), as amended, to change a student's status from dependent to independent in cases involving unusual circumstances.

The following conditions, individually or in combination, do NOT merit a dependency override:

- ❖ parents' refusal to contribute to your education
- ❖ parents' unwillingness to provide information on the FAFSA or verification
- ❖ parents do not claim you as a dependent for income tax purposes
- ❖ your ability to demonstrate total self-sufficiency
- ❖ you do not live with your parents
- ❖ you do not want your parents' assistance to pay for college
- ❖ your parents live in another country

Although these circumstances are not sufficient for a dependency override, they do not preclude it. Sometimes there are additional circumstances that occur in conjunction with these circumstances that do merit a dependency override.

Circumstances that MAY be considered for a dependency override include the following:

- ❖ an abusive family environment (e.g., sexual, physical, or mental abuse or other forms of domestic violence)
- ❖ parental drug or alcohol abuse
- ❖ severe estrangement or irreconcilable differences in the family
- ❖ abandonment by parents
- ❖ incarceration or institutionalization of both parents
- ❖ parents lacking the physical or mental capacity to raise the student
- ❖ parents whereabouts unknown or parents cannot be located
- ❖ parents hospitalized for an extended period
- ❖ an unsuitable household (e.g., child removed from the household and placed in foster care)
- ❖ married student's spouse dies or student gets divorced
- ❖ your parents reside in a foreign country and are unable to communicate with you because of a political policy, war, or civil unrest



Application

If you are unable to maintain a relationship with your parents due to the breakdown of familial ties and providing their information for the FAFSA is either unfeasible or would negatively impact you due to one of the circumstances mentioned above or a similar situation, please complete this form and include **all** required documentation.

Appeals submitted without supporting documentation will be denied. A dependency override will only be granted if there are **verifiable, extenuating circumstances** that prevent a student from having contact with his or her parents. Only one appeal per academic year is permitted, and the decision is final. Appeals must be renewed every year that you wish an override to be considered.

REMEMBER: The success of your request for independent status depends upon you and what information you provide. Please provide all requested information. All information will be kept confidential and will only be used to determine your dependency status for financial aid purposes.

Personal Statement

Explain the unusual circumstances that you believe makes you an independent student. Include all relevant details, including names, dates, and places. Please cover at least the following points.

1. What extenuating circumstance(s) qualifies you for an exception to the basic federal definition of an independent student?
2. Describe in detail your current relationship with each of your parents. If you are estranged from your parents, provide a detailed account of the circumstances which led to the estrangement. Please include dates of when these circumstances occurred.
3. How have you supported yourself since your parent(s) ceased supporting you?
4. How stable is your living situation?

Fill in this bubble, if you need and intend to attach a separate piece of paper to explain your circumstance(s).



Questions	month	year
5. When was the last time that you lived with a parent?	___/___	___
6. When was the last time that you had contact with a parent?	___/___	___
7. When was the last time that a parent provided any form of support?	___/___	___
8. In which year were you last claimed by a parent as a dependent on a federal tax return?		_____
9. Are you included as a dependent under a parent’s medical plan?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
10. What are your present living arrangements?		
a. With whom do you live?		
b. How long has this arrangement been in place?		

Self-support / Budget

Note that a student who qualifies as independent does not need to be self-sufficient, nor does a student need to be self-supporting for a financial aid administrator to perform a dependency override.

Free guidance in making informed financial choices is available online through [cashcourse.org](https://www.cashcourse.org).

Supporting Documentation

Each situation will involve diverse documentation. Some documentation you may already have, such as court documents, marriage licenses, or death certificates. Others may not be as easy to retrieve, such as a statement or advisory from a governmental agency that confirms policies or civil unrest that restrict communication and/or transfer of funds between nations. But most supporting documentation will fall somewhere in-between, such as police reports, medical records, or other court documents that you do not have on hand, and may take some time for the agency to retrieve the documents for you. There might also be a cost for you to get copies of documents.

Some documents are also very large, and the bulk of what is contained within is not relevant to your appeal. You can submit the essence of what the document is intended to do and the proof of legality, such as the judge’s signature and record of filing, without sending hundreds of pages. We do not want you to incur significant expenses in retrieving and sending information to support your appeal. Please use your judgment in determining what documents will work best for you to support your statement and appeal for independent status.

Our policy requires three independent sources of verification. You may select three in any combination, so long as that option is not limited.



1 Any legal or official document that supports your statement is acceptable. Examples include, but are not limited to documentation that a parent is deceased, institutionalized, or incarcerated, that there is a protection/restraining order that prohibits you from having contact with your parents, or other legal documentation that would explain why parental information should not or cannot be obtained.

2 You may also use professional references. Letters from professionals (i.e. counselors, teachers, attorneys, doctors, social workers, clergy members, law enforcement officers, officers of the court, mental health professionals, therapists, coaches, etc.) that know you professionally and your situation, and can explain it in detail, must be on official letterhead or agency stationery from that person’s place of employment and include his or her professional title, full address, and phone number. You may also attach his or her business card. The letter must state the reason for the involuntary dissolution of your family. It must also contain a certification that in the professional’s opinion, it was in your best interest (physical, mental, or otherwise) to leave the home environment. The letter MUST be signed by the person writing the statement.

3 You may submit as supporting documentation only one non-professional reference. Please use the Dependency Override Third Party Statement Form (download from eou.edu/financial-aid/forms). If a letter is submitted instead, the letter must state the relationship of the individual writing the statement for you, the date the individual met you, the date the individual first learned of your circumstances, and an explanation of your individual circumstances and the relationship that you have with your parents. The letter MUST be signed by the person writing the statement.

Please list your supporting documents and when they were requested from sender if applicable.

- Your personal statement
- _____
- _____
- _____

If you asked anyone to independently submit documents on your behalf, please provide that information here:

Name	Contact Information	Relationship to You

Additional Requirements

A. EOU’s federal school code (003193) must be on your processed FAFSA for the academic year you wish to appeal your dependency status (2025-26).



Student Certification

Read carefully before you sign.

I hereby certify that ALL information contained in this appeal for independent status, including my personal statement and other documentation, is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. If asked by an authorized official, I agree to give proof of any information that I have indicated on this form. I realize that if I do not give proof when asked, or if I provide information in future years that invalidates this information, further eligibility for financial aid may be revoked and I may owe monies in return.

I affirm that I have not knowingly or intentionally provided any false statements or fraudulent documentation. I understand that if I am found to have knowingly or intentionally given false or fraudulent statements and/or documentation, my appeal will be denied and my eligibility for federal and state student aid jeopardized. I authorize Eastern Oregon University's Financial Aid Office to verify any information provided by me pertaining to my financial aid eligibility and dependency status, and to make corrections to my FAFSA.

Note: Federal regulations stipulate that suspicion of fraud must be reported to the U.S. Department of Education for possible investigation by the Office of the Inspector General and possible prosecution by the United States Attorney General. If you purposely give false or misleading information, you may be fined, sentenced to jail, or both.

Student's Signature (Required – must be your signature, not typed or a font.)

Date

All submitted documents become part of your official record and therefore cannot be returned. Documents that become part of your Educational Record are protected for privacy under federal law (FERPA).

Please submit to: EOU FINANCIAL AID OFFICE, INLOW HALL STE 104, 1 UNIVERSITY BLVD,
LA GRANDE, OR 97850-2807

Fax: 541-962-3661

Questions? Call 541-962-3550

Secure Document Upload: static.eou.edu/share-file/financial-aid.html

or email: fao@eou.edu.

FAO USE ONLY

Determination:

Date: _____ FAA Making Determination: _____ Reviewed: _____

askregs.nasfaa.org [fsa-handbook](#) [GEN-11-15](#) studentaidrefdesk.org