



2020-2021 Request for Special Circumstance INDEPENDENT STATUS

\*\*You indicated on your 2020-2021 FAFSA that you have a Special Circumstance\*\*

Documentation of your special circumstance is required to approve you as an Independent Student Note: The Financial Aid Office will review the documentation. If the status is not approved according to Federal Regulations, you will be notified by mail of other documents required.

Conditions listed below **DO NOT QUALIFY** a student for independent status:

- Parents refuse to contribute to the student's education
Parents are unwilling to provide information on the FAFSA
Parents do not claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes
Student has been 'on their own' for several years
Student does not communicate with parents
Student was previously considered independent for the purpose of receiving financial aid but does not meet the current definition for 2020-2021.

PRINT STUDENT FULL LEGAL NAME STUDENT SSN STUDENT SIGNATURE DATE

Circumstances for Independent Status

- Unusual Circumstances - Situation meets none of the criteria below. Yes, Attach explanation and documentation No
Ward of the Court - At any time, since you turned 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care or were you a dependent or ward of the court. Yes, Attach statement and court documentation No
Emancipated Minor - Determined by a court in your state of legal residence. Yes, Attach statement and court documentation No
Legal Guardianship - Determined by a court in your state of legal residence Yes, Attach statement and court documentation No
Unaccompanied Youth who was Homeless - Meaning 1.) Lacking fixed, regular and adequate housing, which includes living in shelters, motels or cars, or temporarily living with other people because you had nowhere else to go, 2.) You are not living in the physical custody of your parent or guardian, and 3.) You are 21 years of age or younger or you are still enrolled in high school as of the day you completed the FAFSA.

\*At any time on or after July 1, 2019, did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless? Yes No

\*At any time on or after July 1, 2019, did the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless? Yes No

\*At any time on or after July 1, 2019, did the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless? Yes, No

If you meet any of these stipulations pertaining to Unaccompanied Youth who was Homeless, have the appropriate person or agency verify your living status by completing the information requested below.

Form with fields for School/Agency Official (print name), School or Agency, Phone Number, Address, City, State, Zip, Email, School/Agency Official signature, Date

## Criteria for independence

For the 2020–2021 year, a student who meets any of the following criteria from HEA Sec. 480(d) is independent;

- was born before January 1, 1997
- is married as of the date he applies
- will be a graduate or professional student at the start of the award year
- is currently serving on active duty for purposes other than training
- is a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces
- has children or has dependents other than a spouse
- was an orphan, foster child, or ward/dependent of the court at any time since the age of 13
- is an emancipated minor or in legal guardianship or was when he reached the age of majority in his state
- was determined at any time since July 1, 2019, to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless by an appropriate agency.