



OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID

2020-21 VERIFICATION OF DEPENDENCY STATUS

DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE

Dear Student:

Federal law sets the rules for dependency, thus each student must first be evaluated against these guidelines. Please review the 2019-20 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), **step three** to determine if you can answer yes to one of the questions. Generally, a student is independent if he or she was born before January 1, 1996, is a veteran of the U.S. armed forces, is enrolled in a graduate program, is married, or has legal dependents that you provide 50% of the support for.

The circumstances below are not grounds for a dependency override; and parent information will need to be submitted for federal financial aid to be evaluated:

- 1) Parent's refusal to contribute to the student's education.
- 2) Parent's unwillingness to provide information on the FAFSA or for verification.
- 3) Parents did not claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes.
- 4) Student does not reside with parents.
- 5) Student is financially self-sufficient.

These are some examples of unusual circumstances that are outlined by the department of education:

- 1) An abusive family environment. The abuse should be documented in a corroborating letter or document.
- 2) Parental abandonment. The abandonment should be documented in a corroborating letter or document.
- 3) Parental incarceration. The incarceration should be documented in a corroborating letter or document.
- 4) Incapacitating parental illness. The illness should be documented in a corroborating letter or document.
- 5) Other highly unusual family circumstances. The circumstance should be documented in a corroborating letter or document.

Camden County College's financial aid office is not bound by a dependency override that was approved at another college. An override at one college is not binding at another. Federal law requires the financial aid office at the college the student plans to attend or is currently attending to determine whether a dependency override is approved.

Dependency overrides that are approved at Camden County College do not automatically carry over from one year to the next. The financial aid office must reaffirm each year that the unusual circumstances persist and that a dependency override is still approved. Students are required to submit an appeal for a dependency override along with year-specific documentation each year for reevaluation of dependency status. The appeal should confirm that the circumstances persist and must be documented to the extent required by the Office of Financial Aid.

Sincerely,

The Financial Aid Appeals Committee

STUDENT INFORMATION:

New Student Request _____

Returning Student Request _____

Last Name (PLEASE PRINT) First Name M.I. College ID or Social Security Number

Address Number and Street Apt. Number Telephone Number

City State Zip Code E-mail address

The Financial Aid Committee requires a minimum of thirty days to review appeals. When your appeal has been reviewed written notification of the Committee's decision will be mailed to you.

Did you answer yes to one of the following statements? If so please provide documentation from the appropriate agency to substantiate your answer:

- At any time since you turned 13 were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care or were dependent or ward of the court? Yes___ No___
- As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, were you an emancipated minor for any other reason than child support; by your 18th birthday with court documentation. Yes___ No___
- As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, do you have a permanent legal guardian other than a parent? Yes___ No___
- At any time on or after July 1, 2019 did your High School or School District determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless? Yes___ No___
- At any time on or after July 1, 2019 were you in an emergency shelter, transitional housing or living program, or a runaway homeless youth center as an unaccompanied minor? Yes___ No___

Do you have a special circumstance that keeps you from providing your biological or adoptive parents information on the FAFSA application that is not covered above? If so,

Please submit the following documents:

- A personal statement explaining your situation.
- A letter or document that corroborates your statements from a non-family member (e.g. minister, priest, rabbi, attorney, high school official, counselor, police officer, or a social service agency).
- A statement from your custodian or guardian.
- Other supporting documents: _____

My signature below confirms that all of the information I am providing on this appeal form and in supporting documentation is true, accurate, and complete.

Student Signature

Date

WARNING: If you purposely give false or misleading information on this worksheet, you may be fined, be sentenced to jail, or both.

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