



Dependency Override Appeal Form 2020-2021

PRINT INFORMATION IN THIS SECTION

Student's Name: _____		
E-mail address: _____		Home Phone: _____
Cell Phone #: _____	Student ID #: _____	Birth Date: _____
Street: _____		
City: _____	State: _____	Zip: _____

*This form is for dependent students who **do not** meet the federal criteria for "independent" status as outlined on the 2020-2021 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) but who would like to have their unique circumstances reviewed in order to be considered independent for financial aid purposes. Students who are estranged from their parents due to **extenuating or unusual circumstances** (i.e. physical abuse, parent alcoholism, parent drug abuse, estrangement, neglect or abandonment) which can be documented by an objective third party (i.e. high school or college counselor, social service agency official, pastor or clergy member, mental health professional, law enforcement officer, teacher, etc.) may qualify. Please allow up to 14 days for review of your request. Your cooperation in providing requested documentation is a necessary part of this process to meet this time line. Delayed information could result in the review exceeding the 14 day window.*

If a student meets the criteria to be considered independent set forth on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), a student is "independent" for financial aid purposes. In compliance with federal regulations, exceptions to this dependency definition are made only in extraordinary situations on a case-by-case basis using professional judgment. The following **do NOT** merit a dependency override:

1. Parents refusing to contribute to the student's education
2. Parents unwilling to provide information on the application or for verification
3. Parents not claiming the student as a dependent for income tax purposes.
4. Student demonstrating total self-sufficiency or you do not reside with your parents
5. You were married AFTER you applied for financial aid
6. You do not want your parent's assistance to pay for college.

Instructions:

Complete and submit this form along with the required documentation to the Financial Aid Office. Documentation requirements are listed below. After your request and your documentation are reviewed, we will notify you in writing of the results at the address indicated above. Please allow up to fourteen (14) days for review of your appeal.

1. **Personal Statement. ATTACH A DETAILED LETTER** explaining/describing your situation. You must describe your current relationship (even if it is non-existent) with your mother and father. The following items should be addressed:
 - Has a parent died?
 - Do you live with someone other than your parents and does that person support you?
 - Describe the nature of your relationship with each of your parent(s). If you are estranged from your parents, please provide a detailed account of the circumstances.
 - Provide the date and place of your last contact with each parent.
 - Do you support yourself? If yes, what year did you begin supporting yourself?
 - If your parents are unwilling or unable to provide financial information to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), please explain.

2. **Support Documentation** verifying /substantiating the reasons for your independent status request. This may include but is not limited to:
 - Documentation must be provided from **2 (two)** different objective third party (i.e. high school or college counselor, social service agency official, pastor or clergy member, mental health professional, law enforcement officer, teacher, etc.) whom are able to verify the family circumstances you described in your personal statement. Letters from outside agencies must be on official letterhead of that agency.
 - Documentation confirming that a parent is deceased, institutionalized or incarcerated.
 - Documentation confirming that there is a protection/restraining order that prohibits you from having contact with your parents.
 - Other legal documentation that would explain why parent information should or could not be obtained to determine financial aid eligibility.

3. **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).** Have you already submitted a 2020-2021 FAFSA?
 - Yes.** Submit this form with the required documentation as outlined. Make sure Eastern Gateway Community college's federal school code (007275) is listed on the FAFSA)

 - No.** Complete a 2020-2021 FAFSA at www.fafsa.gov. If you are unable to provide parental information, you can still submit the FAFSA. Your application will remain incomplete until this appeal is approved. If the appeal is denied, you will be required to update your FAFSA with parental information and parental signature.

4. **2020-2021 Verification Worksheet – Independent Student.**
 - Thoroughly complete this form, sign and date.

5. **IRS Data Retrieval Option Utilized through FAFSA process OR provide a copy of 2018 Federal Tax Return Transcript.**
 - Please note that additional documentation may be required by the Financial Aid Office and the student will be notified. It is the student's responsibility to submit all required paperwork.
 - If you do not have income from work, please include all applicable 2018 income information and/or source(s) of financial support in 2018.

Approval of a Dependency Override is not guaranteed and at the discretion of the Financial Aid Administrator and cannot be appealed.

Student Certification:

I certify that the information provided above and the attached documentation is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I also realize that purposely giving false or misleading information on this form may result in a fine, a prison sentence, or both.

Signature: _____

Date: _____