

PROFESSIONAL JUDGEMENT AND DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE

Federal regulations permit the College to exercise professional judgment in determining if unusual circumstances can be documented which would result in a dependency status change from Dependent to Independent for federal student financial aid purposes. The Director of Financial Aid makes this determination on a case-by-case basis and the student is notified through their student email. Students must complete verification prior to requesting an appeal.

Dependent Student Override

If the student is Dependent by definition, but believes circumstances are present to establish him/her as “Independent”, the student can request a review of his/her unusual circumstances by the college. The following steps are required:

1. Student must provide, in writing, a full explanation of his/her unusual circumstances with specific, dates, etc., and,
2. Student must secure written documentation from other appropriate persons, agencies, etc., confirming the specifics as identified by the student. It must be in writing and signed and dated by the appropriate party. Documentation from family members will not be accepted.
3. Student is responsible for providing full written documentation to the Financial Aid Office within their specified time period.