Special Conditions Appeal 2016-2017

Many students feel that they, and their families, may have a special condition that could change their eligibility for financial aid. The United States Department of Education provides for the use of professional judgment in determining eligibility for financial aid. This provision allows for consideration of projected year income, rather than prior year income, to calculate a student’s eligibility. If your situation has changed drastically from the information you provided on the 2016-2017 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and your situation falls into one of the categories listed below, you may submit a special conditions appeal with the required documents to support your claims of special circumstances. The Financial Aid Office will evaluate the information that you have submitted on your FAFSA, and then will evaluate the documents you submit for your appeal to determine if you are eligible for financial aid adjustments.

There are a limited number of situations that qualify as special conditions according to federal financial aid regulations. Please read the information below to determine if you should file a special condition appeal. The special condition appeal can only be submitted after the school receives the original FAFSA information. Also, please be aware that in the majority of cases, eligibility for the special condition adjustment does not increase the student’s eligibility for grants, nor does it increase the total amount of aid that can be awarded. The adjustment usually only changes non-need based loans to need based loans, or may result in no change to aid eligibility. Be aware that if you receive a North Carolina Grant, it may be reduced or lost because it is based on your original expected family contribution (EFC).

If you meet one of the conditions listed below, you may submit the appropriate special condition appeal form and all required documentation. Appeal forms for loss of employment income and tuition for a special needs child will be available July 1, 2016. Due to the complexity of special condition appeals, please allow sufficient time for us to review your information. You must satisfy your semester bill even if your special condition review is not yet complete at the time payment is due or you will risk cancellation of your course registration. You will be notified if we determine that we need additional information in order to complete the review of your appeal.

Special condition appeals for loss of employment income submitted and/or not completed until after January 1, 2017 must include signed copies of 2016 federal tax transcripts, W-2 forms, and 1099 forms.

Special condition appeals submitted without the required documentation will not be considered.

The deadline to file a special condition appeal for 2016-2017 is April 11, 2017.

The only conditions that may merit the use of a special condition appeal:

**Dependent Students**

- Loss of an untaxed benefit during 2016 (Social Security, child support, unemployment, disability) **Form 402**
- Loss of income due to separation/divorce or death of parent after the FAFSA was completed **Form 403**
- Extraordinary medical expenses paid during 2015 in the household where the student resides **Form 404**
- (AVAILABLE JULY 1, 2016) Tuition for a special needs child **Form 405**
- (AVAILABLE JULY 1, 2016) Parent’s loss of employment income during 2016 for at least 10 consecutive weeks (can’t use reduced income, change in jobs, or loss of self employment income) **Form 401**

**Note:** If the job loss occurs after September 1, 2016 and the parent receives severance and/or unemployment compensation, there will likely be little to no change in the expected family contribution and an appeal should be filed for the following year if the parent has not gained employment prior to July 1, 2017.

**Independent Students**

- Loss of an untaxed benefit during 2016 (Social Security, child support, unemployment, disability) **Form 412**
- Loss of income due to separation/divorce or death of spouse after the FAFSA was completed **Form 413**
- Extraordinary medical expenses paid during 2015 in the household where the student resides **Form 414**
- (AVAILABLE JULY 1, 2016) Tuition for a special needs child **Form 415**
- (AVAILABLE JULY 1, 2016) Student or spouse’s loss of employment income during 2016 for at least 10 consecutive weeks (can’t use reduced income, change in jobs, or loss of self employment income) **Form 411**

**Note:** If the job loss occurs after September 1, 2016 and the individual receives severance and/or unemployment compensation, there will likely be little to no change in the expected family contribution and an appeal should be filed for the following year instead if the individual has not gained employment prior to July 1, 2017.
Loss of Untaxed Income or Benefit in 2016
Independent Student

Student’s ID Number: __________________________ Email: __________________________

Student’s Name: __________________________________ Cell Phone #: ______________________

Mailing Address: __________________________________________________________________

This must be a complete loss of the benefit. The untaxed income or benefit must have been from a public or private agency, company, or person because of a court order. Do not include veteran’s educational benefits.

☐ Loss of unemployment compensation for 2016

Required documentation:
- Signed letter explaining circumstances
- Copy of 2015 federal tax return transcript for student and spouse, W-2 and 1099 forms
- Print out showing weekly unemployment compensation received in 2015 and to date in 2016
- Documentation from Employment Security Commission certifying date benefits were exhausted
- Copy of most recent pay stubs or statement of earnings to date for 2016 employment for student and spouse
- Documentation of all other sources of household income (taxable and non-taxable)

☐ Loss of taxable Social Security benefits for 2016

Required documentation:
- Signed letter explaining circumstances
- Is loss of Social Security benefit for student or spouse? __________
- Copy of 2015 federal tax return transcript for student and spouse, W-2 and 1099 forms
- Copy of benefit provider’s notification to you of loss of benefit showing date benefit ended and amount received for 2015 and 2016

☐ Loss of disability benefits for 2016

Required documentation:
- Signed letter explaining circumstances
- Copy of 2015 federal tax return transcript for student and spouse, W-2 and 1099 forms
- Employer’s notice and/or written documentation of termination/cessation of disability benefits
- Copy of benefit provider’s notification to you of loss of benefit showing date benefit ended and the amount received for 2016
- Copy of most recent pay stubs or statement of earnings to date for 2016 employment for student and spouse
- Documentation of all other sources of household income (taxable and non-taxable)

☐ Loss of court ordered child support for 2016

Required documentation:
- Signed letter explaining circumstances
- Court documents verifying loss and date/conditions of loss of child support
- Amount of child support you received for all children in 2015__________ and amount that will be received in 2016__________
- Copy of 2015 federal tax return transcript for student and spouse, W-2 and 1099 forms

* Instructions for obtaining a federal tax transcript can be found at www.wcu.edu/finaid.
I swear under penalty of perjury all of the information contained in this application is true to the best of my knowledge. I understand that providing intentionally false or misleading information in attempt to obtain federal financial aid can result in a fine and/or incarceration.

I understand that failure to provide the required documentation may result in denial of this application. I understand that additional documentation may be requested and that I will provide all requested documentation.

☐ By checking this box and signing below, I understand that if I am receiving a Pell Grant or any of the North Carolina state grants, there is a possibility that these grants could be increased or decreased based on the award revision.

______________________________  _______________________________  ______________
Print Student’s Name  Student’s Signature  Date