Petition for Independent Status 2016-2017

Student’s ID Number: ___________________________         Student’s Email: ___________________________

Student’s Name: ___________________________         Cell Phone #: ___________________________

Address ____________________________________________________________________________

The US Congress and Department of Education determine the criteria for whether a student is considered dependent or independent of their parents for Financial Aid purposes. How an applicant responds to "Step Three" on the FAFSA determines their dependency status.

Please refer to questions listed in “Step Three” in the 2016-2017 FAFSA.

These questions represent the Department of Education's belief that the primary responsibility for financing a student’s education rests with the student and his/her family. Unless a student is classified Independent for Financial Aid purposes by Federal definition, parental income and asset information must be included in determining eligibility for Financial Aid.

** Note: Parent means your mother and/or father, or your adoptive parents. Parent(s) does not mean foster parents, or grandparents.

The unwillingness of your parent(s) to provide parental data on your Financial Aid Form or to financially support your education, or your unwillingness to seek financial assistance from your parent(s) is not an acceptable reason to appeal your dependency status. You must still provide parental data on your Financial Aid Application.

If you do not meet one of the conditions listed in the FAFSA, but still feel there are extenuating circumstances, which might warrant you being considered independent of your parents, for purposes of Financial Aid, you may explain those circumstances in a petition.

Having sufficient resources to pay your own expenses is NOT considered an extenuating circumstance for determining dependency status.

To begin the petition process, please answer the questions listed on the back, and then submit this form, WITH YOUR PETITION STATEMENT AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION ATTACHED, to the Financial Aid Office.

Submit a completed and signed 2016-2017 FAFSA – leave the parent section blank at this time.

You may complete a FAFSA at this website: http://www.fafsa.gov
SECTION 1 - LETTER OF EXPLANATION

- Attach a detailed letter of explanation regarding the circumstances that support your request for independent status.
- Include an explanation regarding your relationship with your parents?

SECTION 2 - STUDENT INCOME DOCUMENTATION

- Current Employer ___________________________________________________________

- Please indicate the amount and source of your annual income for 2015 and expected 2016. (Examples: Wages, monetary gifts from persons other than your parents.)

- Copy of 2015 Federal Tax Form, or statements of employment or copies of W-2 Forms from each employer.
- What is the amount of financial support you receive from your parents?

- What other support do you receive from your parents? (Example: Health Insurance)

SECTION 3 - REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

In addition to your letter of explanation, you must submit:

- Two letters from objective third parties (i.e. minister, social worker, counselor, teacher, doctor, or other professional) explaining the situation in detail.

- Other letters may include: a letter from an independent third party (non-relative or friend) (example: parents of a friend, neighbor, employer) Police reports, court reports, documentation from a social agency.

- Submit a completed, signed 2016-2017 FAFSA (leave the parent sections blank). You may complete the FAFSA at http://www.fafsa.gov.

SECTION 4 - CERTIFICATION SECTION

If you purposely give false or misleading information on this worksheet, you may receive a fine, a prison sentence, or both.

By signing this information request, I certify that all information is complete and correct.

_________________________________________  ______________________________
Student Signature                        Date

YOU MUST COMPILE AND ENCLOSE ALL REQUIRED PIECES OF DOCUMENTATION WITH THIS FORM. A DECISION WILL BE BASED ON THE DOCUMENTATION YOU SUBMIT. IF YOUR DOCUMENTATION IS INCOMPLETE, YOUR STATUS MAY BE DENIED.