

Appendix Q

Dependency Override

Philosophy

Effective with the 1993/1994 award year, students no longer have the option of qualifying as independent through the use of the conditional qualifiers previously available. It is possible that some students who are truly independent and self-supporting may be forced to apply for aid as dependent students under the new definition of independent status. Students who do not meet the automatic independent status qualifiers, but who truly are self-supporting and independent, should be given the opportunity to prove their status and have their applications reconsidered for a dependency override.

Principles

Dependency overrides will be considered only upon the student's request. Request for Dependency Override Status forms are available in the Financial Aid Office. Separate residence alone does not constitute independent status. Refusal by a parent to provide assistance or to provide application information is not sufficient reason to override dependency. There may well be legitimate reasons why parent and child have irreconcilable differences that would call for a dependency override.

Process

Any student who requests that he/she be considered to be an independent student must see the Director of Financial Aid (DFA) or designee for counseling. Options for providing independency will be discussed in this session. It will be totally the student's responsibility to provide any documentation that the DFA or designee may require. Such documentation would include, but not be limited to, copies of student's and parents' tax returns for the most recent two tax years; rent receipts showing student's separate residence; letters from unrelated persons who are familiar with family circumstances, e.g., counselors, doctors, lawyers, social workers.

Also required will be a written statement from the student explaining in detail why one feels he/she is independent and a chronology of when the student last lived with parents and how the student supported him/herself financially since. Upon sufficient documentation, the DFA or designee may choose to allow the dependency override using the process outlined for Title IV.

Effective 8/96