

2023-2024 Independent Status Appeal

Student ID Number: _____

Name: _____

Many students feel they are independent because they are currently living on their own and/or because their parent(s) no longer contribute to their support. **However, the Department of Education requires parental information unless one of the following conditions apply:**

- Student is 24 years of age or older – born before January 1, 1996;
- Student is a documented orphan or ward of the court;
- Student is a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States;
- Student is an active member of the United States Armed Forces or currently serving on active duty for purposes other than training;
- Student is working on a Master's or Doctorate program during the academic year 2023-2024;
- Student is married on the day the FAFSA is initially completed;
- Student has legal dependents other than a spouse; OR
- Student is someone for whom a financial aid administrator makes a documented determination of independence by reason of extenuating family circumstances.

Note: The Department of Education issued guidelines to clarify conditions under which financial aid administrators may appropriately consider dependency overrides. They do not include:

1. Parents refusing to contribute to student's education;
2. Parents unwilling to provide information on the application or for verification;
3. Parents not claiming the students as a dependent for income tax purposes;
4. Student demonstrating total self-sufficiency.

❖ TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A REVIEW

1. Read Section I carefully and collect appropriate documentation.
2. Complete Sections II and III. **If none of the circumstances in Section I apply to your situation, do not complete this form.**
3. Complete the certification statement.
4. Submit the FAFSA, with all the student information completed.
5. Return the required information and documentation to the Financial Aid Office.

SECTION I – EXTENUATING FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCES

We may be able to override your dependent status if unusual family circumstances exist that make it impossible for you to have contact with your parents. Examples are: a parent is institutionalized; or you have been physically or emotionally abused by parent(s). If your family situation involves an extreme situation such as those described above, you may appeal your dependent status by submitting the following:

- A personal letter of explanation: describing your special circumstances and means of support
- A letter on professional letterhead from a third party: who is familiar with and will verify your family situation and the fact that it is unsafe for you to contact your parents to complete the FAFSA (examples: clergy, teacher, counselor, social worker, psychologist, doctor or lawyer)
- A letter from a relative or a friend: to confirm the circumstances you describe
- Independent Verification Worksheet: including all required documents

SECTION II – INDEPENDENT IN PRIOR YEARS

Have you been approved previously for independent status at TVCC? Yes No

If yes, describe current situation in the space provided below for personal statement (see Section III).

If no, **skip Section III** and provide copies of new documents verifying circumstances (see Section I).

SECTION III – Use this area to provide your personal statement – use other sheets if necessary

By signing this form, I certify that the information provided by me, or any other person is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. If requested, I agree to provide documentation for any information that I have submitted. I understand that purposely giving false or misleading information may subject me to fines, penalties, and/or termination of financial aid. Adobe or signature type fonts will not be accepted. **Please submit all completed forms to the TVCC Financial Aid Office by email (PDF format ONLY) to finaid@tvcc.cc, fax 541-881-5528 or mail 650 College Blvd, Ontario, OR 97914. You may also submit forms in the Ontario Student Service Center or the Caldwell Center.**

Student signature Date