

2009/2010 Request for Independent Status Scottsdale Community College, Financial Aid Office

Federal law assumes that the family has the primary responsibility for meeting the educational costs of students. Therefore, a student must meet certain federal criteria to qualify for financial aid as an independent student. If you do not meet one of the criteria listed on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), you will be evaluated as a dependent student, meaning that your parents must provide income and asset information. The Scottsdale Community College Financial Aid Office may determine the dependency status for students who cannot answer "YES" to questions 48-60 on the FAFSA, but have documented, extreme, and extenuating circumstances where it would be unreasonable or impossible to provide parent(s) information on the FAFSA.

Examples of circumstances that **MAY NOT** be considered extreme, and extenuating are listed below. Appeals based on these circumstances (but not limited to) **MAY NOT** be grounds for approval of an appeal.

- You don't live with your parent(s).
- You have not been in contact with your parent(s).
- Your parent(s) have not claimed you on their Federal income taxes.
- You have income sufficient to support yourself.
- You received financial aid as an independent student in previous school years.
- You are not a refugee, but your parent(s) live in another country.
- You are divorced or widowed.
- Parent(s) refusal to complete their portion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

The Financial Aid Office **may** consider appeals based on the following (but not limited to) reasons:

- You are a refugee whose parent(s) are in another country.
- You have a documented case of abuse.
- You have been legally removed from your parent(s) home.

If you feel that your circumstances warrant re-evaluation of your dependency status, please complete the Request for Independent Status and submit with the required documentation attached. You may be asked for additional documentation depending on your individual situation. The appeal documentation will be reviewed by the Financial Aid Office and a decision will be made. You will be notified of the results in writing.

2009/2010 Request for Independent Status

Student Name (print)

Social Security Number or Student ID

Attach the following information to this form:

- A signed letter from you explaining the unusual, extreme and extenuating circumstance that you feel warrants a change in dependency status (please print your name and social security number on the letter). The letter should include explanation as to:
 - The nature of your relationship with your parent(s).
 - The location of both parent(s) and when you last had contact with them.
 - How you have been supporting yourself.
 - Why you cannot obtain information from your parent(s) (explain in detail the extreme and extenuating circumstances as to why it is unreasonable or impossible for you to provide your parent(s) information on the FAFSA).

- A minimum of three (3) pieces of verifiable, documentation regarding your circumstance.

ACCEPTABLE DOCUMENTATION: can include a statement from a responsible adult (including the relationship between you and the adult providing the written statement) who is aware of your situation and can corroborate the facts you present in your letter, a statement from clergy, counselors, legal court documents, police reports, high school records, etc.

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Apply online or print and submit a paper FAFSA to the Financial Aid Office, applications are available at:
http://fsa.ed.gov/fafsa/fafsa_options.html.

RETURN TO: Scottsdale Community College, Financial Aid, 9000 E. Chaparral Rd. Scottsdale, AZ 85256.
PH: (480) 423-6549 FAX: (480)423-6591

To be completed by the Financial Aid Office Only.

- Tabled:** _____

FAO _____ Date _____

- Approved:**
 - The completed FAFSA application was specially coded and mailed/transmitted electronically to the Federal Processor on your behalf on:

FAO _____ Date _____

- Denied:** You must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid as a DEPENDENT student providing your parent(s) information. _____

FAO _____ Date _____