

Appeal for Independent Status 2020-21

Please read the following information before submitting an Appeal for Independent Status. Federal regulations state that a student is considered independent for financial aid if he or she can answer yes to any one of the following questions:

- Were you born before January 1, 1997?
- As of today, are you married? (Also answer “Yes” if you are separated but not divorced.)
- At the beginning of the 2020-21 school year, will you be working on a master’s or doctorate program (such as an M.A., MBA, M.D., J.D., Ph.D., Ed.D., graduate certificate, etc.)?
- Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces for purposes other than training? (If you are a National Guard or Reserves enlistee, are you on active duty for other than state or training purposes?)
- Are you a veteran of the U.S. armed forces?
- Do you now have—or will you have—children who will receive more than half of their support from you between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021?
- Do you have dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you, now and through June 30, 2021?
- At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care, or were you a dependent or ward of the court?
- Has it been determined by a court in your state of legal residence that you are an emancipated minor or that someone other than your parent or stepparent has legal guardianship of you? (You also should answer “Yes” if you are now an adult but were in legal guardianship or were an emancipated minor immediately before you reached the age of being an adult in your state. Answer “No” if the court papers say “custody” rather than “guardianship.”)
- At any time on or after July 1, 2019, were you determined to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless, as determined by (a) your high school or district homeless liaison, (b) the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, or (c) the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program?

If you do not meet any of the criteria listed above and feel your circumstances warrant review for independent status, submit this form and supporting documents to the Financial Aid and Scholarships Office for review. It is important to note that a student is **not** considered independent solely on:

- Self-sufficiency
- Parent's unwillingness to provide information
- Parent's unwillingness to assist with educational expenses
- Parent not claiming the student as a dependent for income tax purposes

<p>Complete, read, and sign Page 2 of this form. Be sure to provide all required documentation.</p>
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Financial Aid and Scholarships
 University of California, Davis
 One Shields Avenue
 Davis, CA 95616-8596

FAX:(530) 752-1587
financialaid.ucdavis.edu
[Contact An Expert](#)

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Student's Name: _____ Student ID: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Attach all required documents (1-3) and complete the application (4) as listed below:

1. Provide a detailed, written statement explaining your extenuating circumstances. Your statement should include the following information:
 - The reason you are not in contact with your parents
 - The reason parental information is not available
 - The date you last had contact with your parents
 - Details about how you supported yourself since you last had contact with your parents
 - Information about any support you received from other persons (with whom you may have lived) since your last contact with your parents
2. Two letters of support from city, state, federal agencies, school or community members (e.g., clergy, counselors, medical authority, teachers, or social workers) who are familiar with your situation. Letters of support should include the name and relationship (to you) of the person providing the statement, and state how long the agency or person has been aware of your situation.
3. A signed copy of your 2019 federal tax return. If you did not file a tax form, provide an explanation of how you have supported yourself. Attach a copy of your 2019 W-2s if you worked but did not file a tax return.
4. Submit your 2020-21 Free Application for Federal Student Aid ([FAFSA](#)) or [California Dream Act Application](#). Please note the priority filing deadline is March 2, 2020.

Student Certification

By signing below, I certify that the enclosed information is true and correct. I understand that any false statements or misrepresentations will be cause for denial, reduction, cancellation, or repayment of financial aid.

Signature: _____

Date: _____