

## 2024-25 Preliminary Unusual Circumstance Appeal

Please read the following information before submitting an Unusual Circumstance Appeal. 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, 2001?
- As of today, are you married? (Also answer “Yes” if you are separated but not divorced.)
- At the beginning of the 2024-25 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, 2024, and June 30, 2025?
- 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, 2025?
- 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, 2023, 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 Financial Aid and Scholarships 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

**Complete, read, and sign Page 2 of this form. Be sure to provide all required documentation.**

Financial Aid and Scholarships  
University of California, Davis  
One Shields Avenue  
Davis, CA 95616-8596

FAX:(530) 752-6667  
financialaid.ucdavis.edu  
[Contact An Expert](#)

## 2024-25 Unusual Circumstance Appeal

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 2023 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 2023 W-2s if you worked but did not file a tax return.
4. Please ensure that you have submitted your 2024-25 Free Application for Federal Student Aid ([FAFSA](#)) or California Dream Act Application ([CADAA](#)) by the priority deadline of May 2, 2024.

### **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: \_\_\_\_\_

You can submit your Preliminary Appeal for Independent Status through our [Contact An Expert](#) email system.