



# GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY™

## 2016-2017 Dependency Status Override Application

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ GCU Student Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name)

Current address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

There are two sections of this appeal. Please select the appropriate section, and submit the necessary documentation.

### SECTION A: Dependency status change due to unusual circumstances

According to the 2016-2017 Federal regulations for Federal Title IV funding, a student is independent if he meets any one of the following criteria:

- The student was born before January 1, 1993
- The student is a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces
- At the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year, the student is a graduate/professional student
- The student is currently or was in legal guardianship by someone other than parent or stepparent
- The student was determined to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless by the student's high school or school district homeless liaison on or after July 1, 2015
- At the age of 13, both parents were deceased and student was in foster care or was dependent/ward of the court
- The student was determined to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless by the director of emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development any time on or after July 1, 2015
- The student was determined to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or was self-supporting and at risk of being homeless by the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program any time on or after July 1, 2015
- The student is on active duty in the U.S Armed Forces for purposes other than training
- The student has dependents other than a spouse/children who live with the student and receive more than half of the support from the student now through June 30, 2017
- The student is currently or was an emancipated minor
- The student is married on the date he submitted his FAFSA
- The student has children and provides more than half of his support between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017

If a student does not meet any one of the above requirements to automatically qualify as an independent student for financial aid purposes, but feels he should be considered as an independent student because of *Unusual Circumstances*, the student may complete and submit this form to his GCU Student Services Counselor. The application will be reviewed by the Office of Financial Aid.

***Unusual circumstances include an abusive family environment or abandonment by parents.***

The following conditions **DO NOT** qualify as reasons for a dependency override:

- Parents refuse to contribute to the student's education
- Parents are unwilling to provide information on the FAFSA or for verification
- Parents do not claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes
- Student demonstrates total self-sufficiency

By law, the Office of Financial Aid is allowed to use "professional judgment" on a case-by-case basis to determine if a student would meet the criteria to be considered independent. The student must provide documentation to support this request. The documentation must be consistent and relate to the student's special circumstances that differentiate the student from the conditions of other students.

Generally, the documentation of unusual circumstances should come from two third parties who know the student's situation (such as a teacher or member of the clergy), but in cases where this is not available, the school can accept a signed and dated statement from the student or a family member detailing the unusual circumstances (This does **not** apply to marital status update request).

***The student can only be a dependent of a biological/adoptive parent; a foster parent or legal guardian is not treated as a parent for Financial Aid purposes.***

According to Federal Regulation, all information provided by the student must support the final decision of the Office of Financial Aid and the decision cannot be appealed to the U.S. Department of Education.

**Please note: Federal Regulations state that a student's claim that his parents refusal to contribute to his college education and/or parental unwillingness to provide information on the FAFSA or information needed for verification is not a reason for a "Dependency Override".**

Please describe the unusual circumstances that would merit the change to "Independent" status (or submit a signed and dated statement) and provide documentation that will substantiate this claim:

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I certify that the information I have submitted for a possible Dependency Override is correct and true to the best of my knowledge.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: HANDWRITTEN SIGNATURE REQUIRED – TYPED/ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE NOT ACCEPTED**

## SECTION B: Dependency status change due to marital status update

If a student's dependency status changes after completing the 2016-2017 FAFSA because of a marital status change, the student can submit this appeal if the new status will more accurately reflect the applicant's ability to pay for current year educational charges. A student who is not selected for verification by the Department of Education will be selected by the Institution and will be required to submit additional documentation to complete this review.

Student - Please describe below how a change of marital status will more accurately reflect your ability to pay for your educational charges for the award year:

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When submitting this appeal, if the student is going to be considered Independent, all of the following documentation must be submitted:

- 2016-2017 Standard Verification - Independent
- Student's 2015 IRS Tax Transcript (Please note that if the student was able to successfully transfer his IRS information over when completing the 2016-2017 FAFSA, the student will not need to supply GCU with a copy of his 2015 IRS Tax Transcript; his GCU Student Services Counselor will be able to verify this information)
- Spouse's 2015 IRS Tax Transcript
- Marriage license

When submitting this appeal, if the student is going to be considered Dependent, all of the following documentation must be submitted:

- 2016-2017 Standard Verification - Dependent
- Student's 2015 IRS Tax Transcript (Please note that if the student was able to successfully transfer his IRS information over when completing the 2016-2017 FAFSA, the student will not need to supply GCU with a copy of his 2015 IRS Tax Transcript; his GCU Student Services Counselor will be able to verify this information)
- Separation of Income form if student had filed taxes jointly with spouse
- Parent's 2015 IRS Tax Transcript
- Divorce decree if divorced; death certificate if widowed

I certify that the information I have submitted for a possible dependency status change is correct and true to the best of my knowledge.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: HANDWRITTEN SIGNATURE REQUIRED – TYPED/ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE NOT ACCEPTED**