



GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY™

2020-2021 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 2020-2021 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, 1997
- The student is a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces
- At the beginning of the 2020-2021 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 as determined by the Court
- The student was determined to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or at risk by the student's high school or school district homeless liaison on or after July 1, 2019
- At any time since 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 or at risk by the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development any time on or after July 1, 2019
- 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, 2019
- 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, 2021
- The student is currently or was an emancipated minor as determined by the court
- The student is married on the date he submitted his FAFSA
- The student has or will have children who will receive more than half of their support from the student between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021

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 is **not** required for marital status update requests).

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 Regulations, 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 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:

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: _____

Signature options: 1) Original mailed or delivered to GCU, 2) Original uploaded to Student Portal, 3) Signed by finger or stylus and uploaded to Student Portal, or 4) An image of a signature that is affixed to the document and uploaded to the Student Portal. A signature cannot be typed even if typed in a cursive font.

SECTION B: Dependency status change due to marital status update

If a student's dependency status changes after completing the 2020-2021 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:

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

- 2020-2021 Standard Verification Worksheet - Independent
- Student's 2018 IRS Tax Return Transcript (Please note that if the student was able to successfully transfer his IRS information over when completing the 2020-2021 FAFSA, the student will not need to supply GCU with a copy of his 2018 IRS Tax Return Transcript; his GCU Student Services Counselor will be able to verify this information)
- Spouse's 2018 IRS Tax Return Transcript
- Copy of Marriage License

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

- 2020-2021 Standard Verification Worksheet - Dependent
- Student's 2018 IRS Tax Return Transcript (Please note that if the student was able to successfully transfer his IRS information over when completing the 2020-2021 FAFSA, the student will not need to supply GCU with a copy of his 2018 IRS Tax Return Transcript; his GCU Student Services Counselor will be able to verify this information)
- W-2s if student had filed taxes jointly with spouse so income can be separated
- Parent's 2018 IRS Tax Return Transcript
- Copy of Divorce Decree if divorced; Death Certificate if widowed
- Completed and signed Separation of Income form (will be provided at a later date)

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: _____

Signature options: 1) Original mailed or delivered to GCU, 2) Original uploaded to Student Portal, 3) Signed by finger or stylus and uploaded to Student Portal, or 4) An image of a signature that is affixed to the document and uploaded to the Student Portal. A signature cannot be typed even if typed in a cursive font.