

# GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY™

## 2025-2026 Unusual Circumstance Application

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

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

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

### Dependency status change due to unusual circumstances

According to 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, 2002
- The student is a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces  
*A veteran is defined as a person who served in the active military, naval, air, or space service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable and engaged in active duty (including basic training).*
- The student has children or other people (excluding their spouse) who live with the student and receive more than half of their support from the student now and between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026
- The student is currently or was an emancipated minor as determined by the court
- At the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year, the student is a graduate/professional student
- The student is married on the date he submitted his FAFSA
- The student is currently or was in legal guardianship by someone other than parent or stepparent as determined by the court
- At any time since the age of 13, both parents were deceased, student was in foster care, or was a dependent/ward of the court
- The student was determined to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless by the student's high school or school district homeless liaison or designee on or after July 1, 2024
- The student was determined to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless by the director or designee of an emergency or transitional shelter, street outreach program, homeless youth drop-in center, or other program serving those experiencing homelessness any time on or after July 1, 2024
- The student was determined to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless by the director or designee of a project supported by a federal TRIO or GEAR UP program grant any time on or after July 1, 2024
- The student is on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training

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<sup>1</sup>, the student may complete and submit this form to his GCU Student Services Counselor.

<sup>1</sup>Unusual circumstances include an abusive family environment, abandonment by parents, refugee or asylee status and separation from parents or parents who are displaced in a foreign country, victims of human trafficking, incarceration, incarceration of parents where contact poses a risk to the student, or a student is otherwise unable to contact or locate his parents.

