



## Office of Financial Aid Petition for Independent Status

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Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

SMU ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

The U.S. Department of Education considers you a dependent student for financial aid application purposes unless you answer "yes" to one of the following statements:

1. I was born before January 1, 1992.
2. I am married.
3. I will be enrolled in a master's, doctoral, or graduate certificate program for 2016-2017.
4. I am currently serving on active duty in the US Armed Forces for purposes other than training.
5. I am a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces.
6. I have children and/or legal dependents who live with me and who receive more than half of their support from me now and through June 30, 2017.
7. When I was age 13 or older, either both of my parents were deceased, I was in foster care, or I was an orphan/ward of the court.
8. I am an emancipated minor or in legal guardianship as determined by a court in my state of legal residence.
9. I am a homeless unaccompanied youth or at risk of homelessness.

You may petition for independent status based on individual unusual circumstances. The U.S. Department of Education requires considerable documentation in order to prove an individual applicant's independent status. ***Your parents' failure to claim you as an exemption on a federal income tax form and/or their unwillingness to provide support for you does not constitute independent status.*** Each petition is evaluated on a case by case basis.

In addition to completing the Resource Worksheet on the following page, these are other examples of documentation you should include:

1. Signed cover letter detailing your individual unusual circumstance and documentation demonstrating your petition.
2. Copies of all your income/resources for 2015, such as a federal tax form, W-2's, Social Security benefits, and savings accounts
3. Statements from three (3) different individuals who are **not** members of the student's family. Each statement must contain date, signature, address, telephone number and relationship to the student. These statements should explain the reasons why it is unrealistic to expect that the student will receive support from parents.
4. Copies of parents' 2015 federal tax return (if available).
5. Any other documentation you feel relevant to the petition

Please complete the Resource Worksheet on the following page. This form must be completed and submitted to your Financial Aid Advisor along with supporting documentation of your expenses. Your request will be reviewed by committee for approval. Notification of approval or denial will be sent to your SMU email address.



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Income Resource Worksheet

In 2015 I received financial support from my parent(s) in the amount of:	\$		
In 2016 I expect to receive support from my parent(s) in the amount of:	\$		
I am covered by my parents' health insurance.	Yes_____ No_____		
My parents assist in paying some of my bills.	Yes_____ No_____		
I spend some holidays with my parents.	Yes_____ No_____		
The amount and source of my 2015 income and my projected 2016 income			
(2015) \$ .	Source:		
(2016) \$ .	Source:		
My approximate 2015 and projected 2016 expenses. Please state who will pay these expenses.			
	2015	2016	Paid By:
Housing Expenses (rent, mortgage, etc.)	\$	\$	
Utilities (water, gas, electricity, phone, etc.)	\$	\$	
Food	\$	\$	
Transportation (including gas, car payments, insurance, maintenance, etc.)	\$	\$	
Personal (clothing, entertainment, medical, toiletries, etc.)	\$	\$	
Other (Identify)	\$	\$	
TOTAL	\$	\$	

**CERTIFICATION:** Information on this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. If asked, I agree to give additional information. If I do not respond to such a request in a timely manner, I realize the petition for independent status may not be processed.

Student's Signature

Date

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OFFICE USE ONLY

FAA Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Denied \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_