

# Independent Appeal 2024 – 2025



Financial Aid Office  
1700 SW College • Topeka, KS 66621  
(785) 670-1151 • (785) 670-1079 fax  
washburn.edu/financial-aid • financialaid@washburn.edu

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Student Name

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Washburn ID

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Student Phone Number

Dependency status determines whose information must be provided on the FAFSA – student and parent (dependent) OR just student and/or spouse, if married (independent). Students are only considered to be independent if they meet certain criteria, as established by federal regulations.

More information regarding dependency status and criteria can be found at <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/dependency>.

**If you do not meet independent status criteria, but believe you have unusual circumstances, you may submit an independent appeal for review. Appeals for independent status are reviewed on a case-by-case basis and are only granted for unusual, documented circumstances, such as the following.**

**Check the box that applies.**

- Left home due to an abusive or threatening environment
- Are abandoned or estranged from your parents and have not been adopted
- Have refugee or asylum status and are separated from your parents or your parents are displaced in a foreign country
- Are a victim of human trafficking
- Are incarcerated or your parents are incarcerated and contact with your parents would pose a risk to you
- Are otherwise unable to contact or locate your parents and have not been adopted
- Other (please list) \_\_\_\_\_

**If you believe you have an unusual circumstance that may qualify for an independent appeal, complete steps 1 and 2.**

- 1. Submit a signed personal letter of appeal to the Financial Aid Office, indicating why you should be considered independent for financial aid purposes.**
- 2. Submit supporting documentation**  
You may provide either written documentation from a third-party aware of your situation, or request that we conduct a verbal interview with you or a third-party individual.

**Check the box that applies if you are submitting written documentation.**

- Court order or official Federal or State documentation that your parents or legal guardians are incarcerated
- Written statement from an attorney, guardian ad litem, court appointed special advocate (CASA), or a representative of TRIO or GEAR UP that confirms the circumstances and the person's relationship to you
- Written statement from a state, county, or Tribal welfare agency that confirms the circumstances
- Written statement from an independent living case worker who supports current and former foster you with the transition to adulthood
- Written statement from a public or private agency, facility, or program servicing the victims of abuse, neglect, assault, or violence

**If you would like to request a documented phone call or interview with you or an individual from one of the agencies listed above, provide the following information:**

Name of individual: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Agency Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to you: \_\_\_\_\_

**Certification and Signature**

By signing this worksheet, you certify that all of the information reported on it is complete and correct.

**WARNING: If you purposely give false or misleading information on this worksheet, you may be fined, be sentenced to jail, or both.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date