

2009-2010 REQUEST FOR A DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE INSTRUCTIONS

The Department of Education, determines a student's status as Dependent or Independent by the answers the student provides on the thirteen questions listed in Step Three of the Free Application for Federal Student Assistance (FAFSA). Students are classified as Dependent or Independent because Federal Financial Aid programs are based on the principle that students (and their parent or spouse, if applicable) are considered the primary source of support for postsecondary education.

Self-sufficiency of the student or parental unwillingness to financially contribute to a student's education are not sufficient reasons for determining a student's status as independent. There are however, situations where a student may have unusual circumstances in which s/he should be considered independent. A justifiable reason to excuse the parents from their financial responsibility must exist.

The following information covers the procedure that is applied to determine a student's eligibility for a "Dependency Override". The Financial Aid Administrator will review the student's appeal by examining the supporting documentation provided by the student, and based on their professional judgment, will either approve or deny the student's request. The student will be notified in writing of the decision.

PLEASE NOTE: THE FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATOR'S DECISION IS FINAL AND CANNOT BE APPEALED TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

SECTION I: CIRCUMSTANCES GIVEN CONSIDERATION

- A. A student's voluntary or involuntary removal from their parents' home due to an extreme situation that threatened the student's health and/or safety and due to these conditions, parent support was terminated.
- B. Incapacity of parent(s) such as incarceration, mental or physical illness or the inability of the applicant to locate the parent(s).
- C. Other extenuating circumstances that can be sufficiently documented.

SECTION II: REVIEW PROCEDURES

- A. All submitted documentation will be reviewed by the Financial Aid Administrator to determine if the student will be granted a dependency override.
- B. An Official Notification of the Administrator's decision will be sent to the student along with an explanation of any further actions necessary to complete his/her application for Assistance.
- C. If the student has already completed a FAFSA for the year under review, the Financial Aid Administrator will make any necessary corrections electronically to the original FAFSA form.
- D. If the student has not yet filed a FAFSA for the year under review, the completed paper FAFSA should be submitted to the Financial Aid Office at the campus the student will attend so that the Dependency Override can be completed.
- E. All documentation will be maintained in the student file.

SECTION III: RENEWAL OF A DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE FOR FUTURE YEARS

A Dependency Override is granted on a yearly basis. A student who was granted a Dependency Override must reapply each academic year thereafter. The Financial Aid Administrator will request documentation from the student regarding their current status. If the student is re-approved for the Dependency Override, the Financial Aid Administrator will need to make necessary changes as listed in Section II, C and D.

2009-2010 REQUEST FOR A DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE FORM

STUDENT INFORMATION AND CERTIFICATION (Please print clearly. Do not leave any item blank.)

Name: _____ SS#: ____ / ____ / ____

Please answer the following questions:

1. Were you born before January 1, 1986? _____ Yes No
2. As of today are you married? _____ Yes No
(Answer "Yes" if you are separated but not divorced.) "As of today" refers to the day that you sign your FAFSA.
3. At the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year, will you be working on a master's or doctorate program (such as an MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD, or graduate certificate, etc.)? _____ Yes No
4. Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training? _____ Yes No
5. Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces? _____ Yes No
6. Do you have children who receive more than half of their support from you? _____ Yes No
7. Do you have dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you, now and through June 30, 2010? _____ Yes No
8. At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care or were you a dependent or ward of the court? _____ Yes No
9. Are you or were you an emancipated minor as determined by a court in your state of legal residence? _____ Yes No
10. Are you or were you in legal guardianship as determined by a court in your state of legal residence? _____ Yes No
11. At any time on or after July 1, 2008, did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless? _____ Yes No
12. At any time on or after July 1, 2008, did the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless? _____ Yes No
13. At any time on or after July 1, 2008, did the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless? _____ Yes No

The following are not considered "unusual circumstances" and do not merit a dependency override:

- Parents refusing to contribute to the student's education;
- Parents unwilling to provide information on the FAFSA application or for verification;
- Parents not claiming the student as a dependent for income tax purposes;
- Student demonstrating total self-sufficiency

1. Did anyone claim you on their 2008 Federal Income Tax Return?
 NO
 YES — Person's Name: _____ Relationship to you: _____
2. Did anyone claim you on their 2007 Federal Income Tax Return?
 NO
 YES — Person's Name: _____ Relationship to you: _____

3. Have you previously been approved for a Dependency Override in the Contra Costa Community College District?
(check one)
- NO — You must provide the documents required under letters **A, B, C, D, E** and **F**.
 - YES — You must provide the documents required under letters **A, C, D, E** and **F**.
- A. A personal letter of appeal explaining the reason for your request for a dependency override.** The letter should be one to two pages and provide as much detail as possible describing your separation from your parents. You are required to include the following information:
- The whereabouts of your biological father and biological mother including their current living arrangements. Include the last contact you had with each biological parent and the frequency of contact with each biological parent over the past five (5) years.
 - Why you cannot provide parental financial information on the 2009-2010 FAFSA.
 - Your living arrangements over the past five (5) years. With whom have you resided? Who has provided support to you over the past five (5) years?
 - Your name, Social Security number, and signature.
- B. Letters from two individuals who can attest to your situation.** Their letters should be one to two pages and provide as much detail as possible describing your separation from your parents.
- The first letter should be from a professional individual not related to the student — counselor, social worker, clergy, police, etc.
 - The second letter can be from either a professional or nonprofessional individual.
 - Each letter must include the individual's name, title or position, address and **must be signed**.
 - The individuals cannot be related to each other AND must reside at separate addresses.
- C. A completed and signed 2009-2010 FAFSA** — leave the parent section blank.
- D. A signed copy of the student's 2008 Federal Income Tax Return (if you filed).**
- E. A completed and signed 2009-2010 Independent Verification Form.**
- F. Income Certification Form- Independent.**
- G. If you have appealed for Dependency Override and been approved at another school for the current academic year please submit a copy of your appeal (including supporting documentation) to the DVC Financial Aid Office.**

I CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION LISTED ON THE FORM AND ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS CONCERNING MY REQUEST FOR A DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE IS CORRECT AND COMPLETE.

Student Signature

_____/_____/_____
Date

SUBMIT THIS FORM AND ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TO THE OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AT DIABLO VALLEY COLLEGE FOR THE 2009-2010 ACADEMIC YEAR.

OFFICE USE ONLY

Comments: _____

Date **Action**
 Approved Denied _____
 Financial Aid Staff Signature

_____ Entered Override: FAA Access to CPS Online SAR on FAFSA/Renewal FAFSA