



The Office of Financial Aid at Owens Community College is required to consider parent information when determining financial aid eligibility for students who are not independent according to the FAFSA definition below. Exceptions to this requirement are made only when adequate documentation of extenuating circumstances exists. Extenuating circumstances generally are defined by a student's inability to have contact with their parents.

You are considered an independent student for financial aid purposes if you meet one of the following conditions at the time you complete and sign the 2016-2017 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). *If you meet one of these conditions, you do not need to complete this form, but you may need to provide documentation to Oserve if requested.*

- You were born before January 1, 1993.
- You are married.
- You are a graduate student working on a post-baccalaureate degree.
- You are a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces, or are currently serving on Active Duty.
- You have legal dependents, other than a spouse, who meet the definition of a legal dependent found in the FAFSA instructions.
- You were an orphan, in foster care, or a ward of the court at any time when you were age 13 or older.
- You were emancipated by a court in your state of legal residence while you were a minor.
- You were in legal guardianship as determined by a court in your state of legal residence.
- On or after July 1, 2015, you were considered to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless, according to your high school, your school district homeless liaison, or the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program.
- On or after July 1, 2015, you were considered to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless, according to the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program.

Students may appeal for the following reasons:

1. Severe circumstances within your family prevent you from obtaining your parents' financial information.
Examples:
 - a. an abusive home situation which is detrimental to your physical and/or mental well being
 - b. abandonment by both parents
 - c. history of parental alcohol or drug abuse
2. Death of a parent after filing the FAFSA and the surviving parent meets one of the conditions in number 1.
3. You have extenuating circumstances not already described above which prevent any and all contact with your parents in order to obtain parental information for FAFSA filing.

Appeals cannot be considered for the following reasons:

- You live on your own without parental financial support.
- Your parents do not contribute or cannot afford to contribute to your college expenses.
- Your parents refuse to provide information for the FAFSA.
- Your parents no longer claim you on their income taxes.

Personal Statement and Documentation

Student's Name _____ OCID _____

Phone _____ Date of Birth _____

Check one of the following:

- I am submitting the Petition for Independent Status for **INITIAL** consideration during the 2016-2017 academic year. (Complete ALL sections.)
- I have applied for, and was granted, a Petition for Independent Status at Owens in a previous year, and would like to **RENEW** my status as an independent student. (Complete all sections EXCEPT section C.)

NOTE: If you have not already completed the 2016-2017 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), please complete it online at www.fafsa.gov. On the FAFSA, following the questions about your Dependency Status, you can indicate that you have "Special Circumstances". This allows you to submit your application without parental information. However, the application will not be finalized unless your petition is approved. *Warning: If you falsely provide parent information on the FAFSA, a Petition for Independent Status will not be considered.*

A: PERSONAL STATEMENT

Attach a typed personal statement with as much detail as possible that completely explains the basis of your appeal. Your statement will be used only to determine if a dependency exception should be made. **Information will be held in the strictest confidence.** Your statement **must** include the following information:

- What are the circumstances surrounding why you no longer have contact with either of your biological or legal parents? Provide as much detail as possible.
- When did you last have contact with them?
- Have either of your biological or legal parents provided you with support in the last 12 months (support may include cash, housing, food, gifts, car insurance, loans, college expenses, etc.)?
- How do you financially support yourself?

Please note: If your personal statement does not adequately describe why you no longer have contact with either of your biological or legal parents, your petition will be denied.

B. CURRENT LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Please select all that apply to you:

- I am attaching a copy of my current lease, rental agreement, or mortgage statement.
 - I am not able to provide a copy of my current lease or rental agreement. However, I am attaching a signed statement from my landlord and/or my roommate verifying my living arrangements. The statement includes my address, the date I began living there and my monthly rent amount.
 - I am currently living in subsidized housing.
 - I have other living arrangements not outlined on this form. Explain on the lines below.
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C. THIRD PARTY DOCUMENTATION

Please submit **BOTH** of the following:

- Attach a **signed** statement from an adult who can verify the family circumstances described in your personal statement. This letter can be from a friend or family member who can verify your situation.
- Attach a **signed** letter on letterhead from an adult professional who is able to verify your situation in their professional capacity and who is not personally connected to you. Adult professionals include clergy members, attorneys, school guidance counselors, medical doctors, mental health professionals, teachers, professors, law enforcement officers, professional staff of Children Services Bureaus and other officers of the court. Court documentation (applicable to the situation described) may be considered in place of a statement from an adult professional.

You must submit both letters in order for your petition to be considered. All letters should explain the situation in detail. If you do not submit both of the required pieces of documentation or they do not adequately explain your situation, your appeal may be considered incomplete or may be denied.

D. SIGNATURE

I certify that all of the information on this form and accompanying documents is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. Furthermore, I swear or affirm that I have not knowingly or intentionally provided any false or fraudulent documentation.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

**Return this completed form and required statements to Oserve, Owens Community College
P.O. Box 10,000, Toledo, OH 43699-1947**

Office Use Only: Approved, reason _____ Denied Initials: _____ Date _____