



# 2024-2025 Petition for Independent Status Due to Unusual Circumstances

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID

## Purpose of this form

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 unusual circumstances exists. Unusual 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 2024-2025 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 the Student Service Center if requested.***

- You were born before January 1, 2001.
- 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, 2023, you were considered to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless, or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless, according to certain authorities as defined by law.

If you are approved for independent status based on Unusual Circumstances at Owens or another institution, you are considered independent for all subsequent award years unless you notify us or we become aware of information that is inconsistent with this status, in which case you will be asked for further clarification.

If another school has approved a Petition for Independent Status due to Unusual Circumstances for you, this form is not required. Submit written documentation from that school's Financial Aid Office confirming the approval.

## Students may appeal for the following reasons:

1. Severe circumstances within your family prevent you from obtaining your parents' financial information.  
Examples are:
  - 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
  - d. your parents are incarcerated
  - e. you are a victim of human trafficking
  - f. you have refugee or asylum status which prevents you from contacting your parents
2. Death of a parent after filing the FAFSA® and the surviving parent meets one of the conditions in number 1.
3. You are unable to obtain parental information for the FAFSA® because there are unusual circumstances not already described above which prevent any and all contact with your parents, or such contact would pose a risk to you.

**Information submitted with this form will be held in the strictest confidence.**

**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.

**Questions?**

If you have any questions, please contact the Student Service Center at (567) 661-2387, contact your Student Financial Services Advisor, or email [studentfinancial@owens.edu](mailto:studentfinancial@owens.edu).

**When to submit this form**

Requests must be processed by the last day of classes for the semester(s) you are attending for this academic year. In order to ensure that your request can be reviewed, submit this application and all requested documentation as soon as possible, preferably no later than one week prior to the end of the semester, as listed below.

**Summer 2024: 8/4/2024**

**Fall 2024: 11/28/2024**

**Spring 2025: 5/1/2025**

**Submit this form and required statements**

**Upload:** From the Ozone **Financial Aid Summary** card, select **View Financial Aid Details**. Follow the instructions on the **Home** tab.

**In person:** Student Service Center

**Mail:** Student Service Center  
Owens Community College  
30335 Oregon Road  
Perrysburg, OH 43551

**Fax:** (567) 661-7808

**To check the status of your form**

You will receive a response as soon as possible, but no later than 60 days after the start of your enrollment, provided that the form was submitted on or before your enrollment started.

1. Log into **Ozone** at [ozone.owens.edu](http://ozone.owens.edu)
2. From the **Financial Aid Summary** card, select **View Financial Aid Details**
3. Verify that you are viewing the **Award Year 2024-2025**
4. On the **Home** tab, the 2024-2025 Petition for Independent Status will be one of the items listed. Below is a listing of what each status means:

**Received, not yet reviewed:** Your materials have not been reviewed.

**Incomplete:** Information that is required for the processing of your form is missing. Please review the Notifications tab or contact the Student Service Center.

**Completed:** Review of your form has been completed and approved.

**Denied:** An adjustment to your FAFSA® information could not be made. We will determine if you are eligible for a dependent-level Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan unless you complete the FAFSA® as a dependent student.

You will be notified of the results of the application in a message on your Ozone account. You will receive an email to your Owens email account when the message has been posted.

*FAFSA® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Education.*



# 2024-2025 Petition for Independent Status Due to Unusual Circumstances

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ OCID \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

If you have not already completed the 2024-2025 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®), please complete it online at [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov). In the FAFSA® section about your Dependency Status, you can indicate that you have "Special Circumstances". This allows you to submit your application without parental information. However, your Student Aid Index (SAI) will be provisional unless your petition is approved. *Warning: If you falsely provide parent information on the FAFSA®, a Petition for Independent Status will not be considered.*

### Prior approvals

If another school has approved a Petition for Independent Status due to Unusual Circumstances for you, completion of this form is not required. Submit written documentation from that school's Financial Aid Office confirming the approval.

### 1. What are the reasons that you no longer have contact with either of your biological or legal parents? Check all that apply.

- an abusive home situation which is detrimental to your physical and/or mental well being
- abandonment by both parents
- history of parental alcohol or drug abuse
- your parents are incarcerated
- death of a parent after filing the FAFSA® and the surviving parent meets one of the following (check all that apply):
  - an abusive home situation which is detrimental to your physical and/or mental well being
  - abandonment by both parents
  - history of parental alcohol or drug abuse
  - your parent is incarcerated
- Other. Please explain here or attach a separate statement. Provide as much detail as possible that completely explains the situation. 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.

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### 2. When did you last have contact with your parents? \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. 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.

- Yes. Describe the type of support given: \_\_\_\_\_
- No

#### 4. Provide information about your 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. Please explain on the lines below.
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#### 5. Provide third-party documentation which explains your situation in detail.

Please submit 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.

Examples include:

- Documentation from one of the following individuals confirming the specific unusual circumstances:
  - clergy members, 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.
  - a state or county child welfare agency
  - a Tribal welfare authority or agency
  - an independent living case worker, such as a case worker who supports current and former foster youth with the transition to adulthood
  - a public or private agency, facility, or program servicing the victims of abuse, neglect, assault, or violence, which may include domestic violence
  - an attorney, a guardian ad litem, or a court-appointed special advocate, or a person serving in a similar capacity. The individual must indicate their relationship to you in their statement.
  - A representative of a Federal TRIO program or a Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Program (GEAR UP) program. The individual must indicate their relationship to you in their statement.
- A court order or official Federal or State documentation that your parents are incarcerated in any Federal or State penal institution.
- Court documentation (applicable to the situation described) may be considered in place of a statement from an adult professional.

If the third-party documentation does not clearly explain the situation, you may be asked to provide a **signed** statement from an adult who can verify your family circumstances. This letter can be from a friend or family member who can verify your situation.

If the required documentation does not adequately explain your situation, your appeal may be considered incomplete or may be denied.

#### 6. 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name of student \_\_\_\_\_

Office Use Only: <input type="checkbox"/> Approved, reason _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Denied Initials: _____ Date _____
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