



FINANCIAL AID DEPARTMENT

REQUEST FOR CHANGE IN DEPENDENCY STATUS

2013-2014

Section 480(d) of the Higher Education Act (HEA), of 1965, as amended defines an independent student as someone who fits into one or more of the following specific categories. Under these categories a student is independent if he or she answers yes to one or more of the following questions:

1. Were you born before January 1, 1990?..... Yes ☐ No ☐
2. As of today, are you married? (*Also answer "Yes" if you are separated but not divorced*)..... Yes ☐ No ☐
3. At the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year, will you be working on a master's or Doctorate program (*such as an MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD, 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 will receive more than half of their support from you between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014? 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, 2014? 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, 2012, 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, 2012, 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, 2012, 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 ☐

Unless one of these applies to you, your parents share responsibility for your educational expenses, and their financial information must be provided in your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application. The parent's unwillingness (vs. inability) to assist the student, is **not** an approved justification for a Dependency Override.

Please complete the documents listed below and provide the supporting documentation requested:

- ✓ Part 1 Dependency Review Request: Answer all questions in detail: *Incomplete forms will not be reviewed.*
- ✓ Part 2 Student Dependency Certification: List the exact circumstances about your family and why you believe you are independent.
- ✓ Part 3 Request for Third Party Verification: Have a professional (not limited to: teacher, counselor, medical authority, member of the clergy, prison administrator, government agency, or court) school provide a signed statement meeting the criteria listed and return it to you.
- ✓ Submit any additional documents that can assist you with your dependency status process.
- ✓ Once all documents are complete, meet with a Financial Aid Specialist during Student Walk-In hours.

2013-2014 Student Dependency Certification

STUDENT NAME: _____ SWC STUDENT ID# _____

Please explain in detail your “unusual circumstances” and why you are unable to provide your father’s and/or mother’s information. Provide as much valid/legal documentation with this packet as possible:

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Attach additional sheets, if needed.

I certify that this statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Student Signature

Date

FINANCIAL AID OFFICE USE ONLY:	
APPROVED _____	DENIED _____
COMMENTS _____	

BY _____	DATE _____

2013-2014 Request for Third Party Verification

STUDENT NAME: _____ SWC STUDENT ID# _____

Please forward to a Third Party Professional who has direct knowledge of your situation.

A Professional includes, but is not limited to: A Teacher, Counselor, Medical Authority, Member of the Clergy, Prison Administrator, Government Agency, or Court Personnel.

The student named above has applied for Financial Aid at Southwestern College and has indicated to our office that he/she is unable to provide parental information due to unusual family circumstances.

Please provide a signed statement on a separate cover (using letterhead or Business Stationary), stating your knowledge of the student's family history and relationship with their parents. In your statement, specifically address the following:

- 1. How long have you known the student?**
- 2. What is your relationship to the student?**
- 3. Why do you feel that the student should be considered as independent?**
- 4. Why do you believe that the student is unable to provide parental information?**
- 5. What is the latest date to the best of your knowledge, that the student last lived with their parent(s) or received support from them?**

This information will remain **Confidential** and will be used to help determine the dependency status of the student and their eligibility for Federal Title IV Financial Aid.