



## FINANCIAL AID, VETERAN SERVICES, AND SCHOLARSHIPS PETITION FOR INDEPENDENT STATUS – 2021-2022

**This form must be completed every academic year**

The U.S. Congress and Department of Education determine the criteria which identifies a student as dependent or independent of their parents for financial aid purposes. To automatically be considered independent for federal financial aid for the 2021-2022 year, students must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Be born before January 1, 1998
- Be legally married as of the date the FAFSA is filed
- Be working on a masters or doctorate degree
- Be active duty military or a veteran
- Provide 51% or more support for a biological or adopted child
- Provide 51% of more support for a legal dependent (such as a legal ward awarded custody through the family court system)
- Have been in foster care, orphaned by both parents, or legally declared a ward of the court after the age of 13
- Have been in a legal guardianship at the time they reached the age of majority (18 in Florida, 19 in Alabama)
- Have been legally emancipated by a family court
- Have been determined to be homeless or self-supporting or at-risk of homelessness as determined by a high school or district homeless liaison, HUD, or the director of a homeless youth center or transitional living program on or after July 1, 2020

If the student does not meet of the following criteria, they may appeal their dependency status for the following reason(s):

- Parental abandonment (generally 2 or more years)
- A documented abusive home situation (physical, psychological, sexual)
- Incarceration of the both parents
- Incarceration of the custodial parent and the non-custodial parent meets one of the above criteria (i.e., abuse, abandonment)

The federal government has identified the below listed conditions, which, individually or in combination with one another, do not qualify as valid extenuating circumstances for which a student may appeal their dependency status. Appeals submitted for the following condition(s) will be automatically denied:

- Parents refuse to contribute to the student's education
- Parents are unwilling to provide information on the FAFSA or for verification
- Parents do not claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes
- Parents live away from the student or in a foreign capacity
- Student does not live with parent(s)
- Student demonstrates total self-sufficiency

You, the student, must provide three (3) letters of support from community members who have specific knowledge of the circumstances which have resulted in your belief that you are independent of your parents. A combination of letters and official court documents may also be submitted to support your appeal. Acceptable letters of support are from such sources as clergy, social workers, high school counselors, professional counselors, lawyers, teachers, etc. Letters must be on official letterhead OR must be notarized. Letters should include the length of the relationship with the student, current contact information\* (address, phone, email) and, how, in their professional capacity, the person is aware of the student’s family situation. Family members or friends are not considered third-party. Letters from family members or friends may be provided to support your appeal, however, they cannot be used in lieu of third-party supporting documentation.

Please select the reason(s) you are appealing your financial aid dependency status:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Parental abandonment (generally 2 or more years)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ A documented abusive home situation (physical, psychological, sexual)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Incarceration of the both parents
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Incarceration of the custodial parent and the non-custodial parent meets one of the above criteria (i.e., abuse, abandonment)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Other (please explain below)
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\* Please be sure that the contact information is accurate and up-to-date as our office does call/email to verify the validity of the information provided.



Petition for Independent Status Student Check Sheet

Completed/signed 2021-2022 Petition for Independent Status. \_\_\_\_\_

Detailed statement, including, but not limited to: \_\_\_\_\_

- Your name and student ID number
Reason why you are appealing your financial aid dependency status
Explain the unusual circumstance(s) to establish your independence
Last date of contact with biological or adoptive mother
Last date of contact with biological or adoptive father
Describe how you met expenses without parental support

Official birth certificate of student. \_\_\_\_\_

Completed/signed 2021-2022 Independent Verification Document. \_\_\_\_\_

Your 2019 IRS tax return transcript, signed 1040 Form, or IRS Non-Filing Letter (if not required to file taxes and did not file taxes). If you worked in 2019 but did not file taxes, you will need to provide W2's from all places of employment in addition to the Non-Filing Letter. \_\_\_\_\_

Your 2020 IRS tax return transcript, signed 1040 Form, or IRS Non-Filing Letter (if not required to file taxes and did not file taxes). If you worked in 2020 but did not file taxes, you will need to provide W-2's from all places of employment in addition to the Non-Filing Letter. \_\_\_\_\_

Your parent(s) and/or stepparent(s) 2019 IRS tax return transcript, signed 1040 Form, or IRS Non-Filing Letter (if not required to file taxes and did not file taxes). If they worked in 2019 but did not file taxes, you will need to provide their W-2's from all places of employment in addition to the Non-Filing Letter. \_\_\_\_\_

- If unable to provide, please explain why.

Your parent(s) and/or stepparent(s) 2020 IRS tax return transcript, signed 1040 Form, or IRS Non-Filing Letter (if not required to file taxes and did not file taxes). If they worked in 2019 but did not file taxes, you will need to provide their W-2's from all places of employment in addition to the Non-Filing Letter. \_\_\_\_\_

- If unable to provide, please explain why.

Documentation of any income or resources received in 2020 that are not on your tax return or W-2's. \_\_\_\_\_



**Petition for Independent Status  
Student Check Sheet (cont.)**

Documentation of income or resources received to date in 2021 (Most recent check stubs with year-to-date information.) \_\_\_\_\_

- If you did not work in 2021, please explain how your expenses were/are currently being met.

Documentation of where you have lived since January 2020 (e.g., signed lease agreement(s), housing contract(s), etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Attach copies of a minimum of 3 court documents and/or supporting letters from third-party professionals (social workers, guidance counselors, teachers, etc.) confirming the extenuating circumstance(s) provided in your personal statement. \_\_\_\_\_

Sign and date all required forms. \_\_\_\_\_





Financial Aid Office, Bldg. 2
1000 College Blvd., Pensacola, FL 32504-8998
Office Phone: 850.484.1680

Questions: fava@pensacolastate.edu

Document Upload: Spyglass/Financial Aid Information tab

Birth/Step/or Adoptive Mother's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_
Print Last/First/Middle

Birth/Step/or Adoptive Father's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_
Print Last/First/Middle

Financial/Other Support from Parent(s)/Stepparent(s) (Must complete with a dollar amount. If none, write/enter \$0.00.)

- 1) What amount of financial support did you receive from your parent(s)/stepparent(s) in 2019? \$ \_\_\_\_\_
2) What amount of financial support did you receive from your parent(s)/stepparent(s) in 2020? \$ \_\_\_\_\_
3) What amount of financial support will you receive from your parent(s)/stepparent(s) in 2021? \$ \_\_\_\_\_
4) What other support do you receive from your parent(s)/stepparent(s)? (Examples: health or auto insurance, room and board, cell phone, clothing, use of a vehicle, car payment, etc.)

List the type of other support received and its approximate value:

Table with 2 columns: Type, Approximate Value. Contains 6 rows of blank lines for input.

NOTE: For your petition to be considered, you must not have been claimed as a tax exemption by a parent or stepparent in 2020. Your parent(s)/stepparent(s) may not have used you as the basis to file income taxes as "head of household."

By signing this worksheet, I hereby certify that the information I have submitted is true and correct.

Printed Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_\_

PSC Pirate Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_@students.pensacolastate.edu