



DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE APPEAL POLICY

PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for administering dependency override appeals for Title IV eligible students in accordance with regulations set forth by the U.S. Department of Education (U.S. DOE).

STATEMENT OF POLICY

It is the University's policy to administer Dependency Overrides in accordance with Federal regulations and law.

Based on guidelines set forth by the U.S. DOE, dependent students must appeal to the University if are under the age of 24 and respond "No" to the dependency questions on the FAFSA. The University recognizes that there are special circumstances in which students are not able to obtain parents' information.

Students unable to complete the FAFSA with parental information are required to request a Dependency Override to receive Title IV federal aid by contacting the Center for Student Success & Coaching. Students are required to outline their circumstance in a typed, signed letter to the Office, complete the Dependency Override Appeal Form, and provide any and all documentation listed on the form that supports their appeal for independent status. This may include court orders of permanent independent status (not temporary), death certificate(s), and/or official letters from a third party (e.g., school counselors, clergy, or family physicians) may be appropriate.

The Center for Student Success & Coaching will review the Dependency Override request once all documentation has been received. The student will then be contacted by a University representative if additional information is needed as well as once the review is completed. Each request for a Dependency Override is reviewed on a case-by-case basis and students are required to complete the request on an annual basis since the override cannot be automatically renewed each year.

The following may constitute an acceptable circumstance for the purpose of a Dependency Override:

- Abandonment by parents
- An abusive family environment that threatens the student's health or safety
- The student being unable to locate their parents

The University, per federal regulations, is unable to take into consideration the following reasons:

- Parent refusal to contribute to the student's education
- Parent unwillingness to provide required information or income verification on FAFSA.
- Parent does not claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes
- Student demonstrates total self-sufficiency

POLICY TYPE: STUDENT FINANCE