

2023-2024 Dependency Status Appeal

Student Name: _____ ID#: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Email: _____

Select One:

- New Appeal Request - go to Section I
- Renewal Appeal Request - go to Section II

The federal student aid programs are based on the premise that the parent(s) of traditional college age students (younger than 24) have the primary responsibility for paying for their child's college education. If a student has extenuating circumstances, they can request to have their situation assessed to be considered an independent student by completing this form and providing supporting documentation.

All requests are carefully considered; however, submitting this form and supporting documentation does not guarantee an approval. A decision will be made by MCAD's Financial Aid Committee. The decision will be final and cannot be appealed to the U.S. Department of Education. Examples of circumstances that will **NOT** qualify a student to be approved for independent status are the following:

- Parents do not claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes
- Parents refuse to contribute to a student's education
- Student demonstrates self-sufficiency
- A student who does not wish to communicate with parents

Section I: New Appeal Request

Select One:

- Your family situation is untenable** and might have resulted from physical or emotional abuse, drug or alcohol abuse or other untenable situation that makes it impossible for you to live with and be supported by your parent(s). Suggested Documentation:
 - A letter from you explaining the situation between you and your parent(s)
 - A letter on official letterhead from social worker, psychologist, doctor or other counseling professional who is treating you and has first-hand knowledge of your situation
 - Police reports and/or court reports, if applicable
 - Documentation from a social agency, if applicable
 - A **signed** copy of your 2021 Federal Income Tax Return (Form 1040) and W2(s). You must also provide any Schedules you filed with the tax return.

- If you did not work in 2021 provide a letter documenting your financial resources in 2021.
- **One of your parents is no longer living and your other parent is living**; however, you have not had contact with or received any financial support from the living parent for a significant period of time.
Suggested Documentation:
 - A letter from you explaining the situation between you and your natural parent who is living
 - A copy of the death certificate of the deceased parent(s)
 - A **signed** copy of your 2021 Federal Income Tax Return (Form 1040) and W2(s). You must also provide any Schedules you filed with the tax return.
 - If you did not work in 2021 provide a letter documenting your financial resources during this year.

Section II: Dependency Renewal Request

A Dependency Status Appeal Form must be submitted each year an appeal is requested.

Documents Needed for Renewal:

1. Provide a letter that thoroughly explains your current relationship with your parent(s). Within your letter also include information on the following questions:
 - a. Where are your parent(s) currently living?
 - b. When and where was the last time you had contact with them? What was the nature of the contact?
 - c. How have you been financially supporting yourself?
2. Provide a **signed** copy of your 2021 Federal Income Tax Return (Form 1040) and W2(s). You must also provide any Schedules you filed with the tax return.

Appeals submitted without the required documentation listed above cannot be considered. If you are approved for a dependency appeal, your dependency status must be reevaluated each year until you meet the federal criteria for being considered an independent student automatically.

I acknowledge by signing and dating this form that I understand completion of this request does not ensure a change in my dependency status or receipt of additional financial aid. I also understand that making false statements or misrepresentations will result in my request being cancelled. I understand the decision of the Financial Aid Appeals Committee is final and cannot be changed.

Signature: _____ Date: _____