



# Dependency Status Appeal

Federal financial aid regulations require the family to take primary responsibility for meeting the educational costs of students. This includes assisting with your financial aid until you are 24 years old, even if that assistance is only to provide information for the FAFSA. To be considered and receive federal financial aid, dependent students are required to provide parental information and signature(s).

Occasionally, due to extraordinary circumstances, students cannot obtain the parental information needed and required. If this is your situation, you have the option to appeal this federal regulation by completing certain steps and providing documentation to move forward with an appeal review.

**BEFORE** you get started with documenting your appeal, please review the following circumstances that **do not** qualify as “unusual circumstances” and that **do not** merit a dependency override. They include:

- Parents refusing to contribute to the student’s education;
- Parents unwilling to provide information on the FAFSA or for verification;
- Parents not claiming the student as a dependent for income tax purposes; or
- Student demonstrating total self-sufficiency; being self-supporting and living independently.

The decision to override a student’s dependency status must be made on a case-by-case basis by each school you are attending, justified by an individual student’s unusual circumstances, and must be documented in the student’s file. The Office of Financial Aid at Warner Pacific University will not automatically accept requests for independent status granted by another institution. Renewal of the dependency override in subsequent years is automatic, unless we receive information on your FAFSA or from another source that indicate your circumstances may have changed. If this is the case, you will be contacted to determine your current dependency status.

If you have an unusual circumstance other than those mentioned above please submit an appeal.

## STUDENT INFORMATION

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Last Name	First Name	M.I.	WPU ID Number
Phone Number (include area code)		Email address (primary contact method)	

## APPEAL PROCESS Submit the following to complete an appeal

- 1) Your personal statement, signed and dated, that includes the following information:
  - A) Identify the location of each of your parents
  - B) Describe the last time you had contact with each parent—when, where, and the nature of the contact
  - C) Explain why you cannot obtain parental information
  - D) Describe exactly when and how you (or someone other than your parents) started meeting your own expenses without parental support
- 2) Corroborating detailed statements from two adults familiar with your situation.
  - A) At least one of these two adults must be from outside your family. For example, this person may be a pastor, counselor, teacher, or social worker.
  - B) Both letters must be signed and dated and those from outside your family must be on official letterhead.

Please return this form with all required supporting documentation for the packet. There are four ways to submit a completed appeal packet to the WPU Office of Financial Aid:

- Fax to 503.517.1352
- Mail to Office of Financial Aid, 2219 SE 68th Ave, Portland, OR 97215
- Submit in person at the Office of Financial Aid located in Egtvedt Hall on the Mt. Tabor campus
- Email to [financialaid@warnerpacific.edu](mailto:financialaid@warnerpacific.edu)

Once this information has been received and evaluated, it is possible that WPU may need additional documentation. If that is the case, you will be notified with a list of the additional information needed. Notification of the appeal decision will be sent to the student via email.