Southwestern Oklahoma State University

Petition for Dependency Status Review
2026-2027

Student Name_____SS#_____Date of Birth_____
Address_____ (zip)_____Telephone_____

Financial aid regulations assume that the family has primary responsibility for meeting the educational costs of students. If you are considered a dependent student according to the financial aid definition, your aid eligibility is determined by using parent income and asset information in addition to your information. Dependent students are required by law to provide parental information and signatures to be considered for financial aid.

Four conditions that, individually or in combination with one another, do not qualify as "unusual circumstances" or that do not merit a dependency override. These circumstances are:

1. Parents refusing to contribute to the student's education.
2. Parents unwilling to provide information on the application or for verification.
3. Parents not claiming the student as a dependent for income tax purposes.
4. Student demonstrating total self-sufficiency.

Occasionally, due to unusual circumstances, students should not be considered as dependent. If you can document why you should be considered independent for some unusual reason, you may petition for a waiver of federal regulations requiring parental information. Please provide reasons why your parents cannot contribute toward your education. Check the reason that best describes your situation.

- ☐ I have been separated from my parents due to an unsafe home environment.
  (Attach 3rd party documentation from a court, social service agency, or other similar source.)

- ☐ I have been separated from my parents, and I come from a documented background of historical poverty, and I live with a relative who is providing support.
  (Attach 3rd party documentation from a social service agency or respected member of the community.)

- ☐ My economic and personal circumstances are of such a unique or unusual nature that denial of independent student status would create an unjust hardship.
  (Attach 3rd party documentation from a court, social service agency, or similar source.)

Please attach a separate sheet explaining in detail the following information.

- ☐ Identify the location of both your parents.
- ☐ Describe the last time you had contact with each of your parents – when, where, and the nature of the contact.
- ☐ Explain what unusual circumstances should make you an independent student.
- ☐ Describe how you have been self-supporting.
  1. When did you start meeting your expenses without parental support?
     And
  2. How have you provided for yourself?

Student Signature_____ Date_____

Call Financial Aid Office, 580-774-3796 to schedule an appointment when you have all Documentation/paperwork completed.

OFFICE USE ONLY

APPROVED **DENIED**

Comments_____
Date: _____ FAO
Signature_____