



Mid-South Community College

2011-2012 Dependency Override Appeal

Financial Aid Office 2000 West Broadway, West Memphis, AR 72301 Phone: 866-733-6729 Fax: 866-733-6719

For Financial Aid Office Use Only

Date Received _____

Approved _____ Denied _____

Financial Aid Office Signature

The federal government has established the criteria for determining the dependency status of financial aid applicants. If you were required to answer “no” to questions 45 through 57 in Step Three of the 2011-2012 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), you are considered a dependent student and **must** include parents’ income on your application.

The US Department of Education does allow financial aid administrators to use professional judgment in cases where extenuating circumstances prevent a student from being able to provide parental information on the FAFSA, commonly referred to as a dependency status appeal or override. Some situations that may merit appeal include:

- Physical or emotional abuse
- Abandonment
- Parental drug abuse
- Parental mental incapacity
- Another situation beyond your control

Dependency Overrides are limited to cases of abuse or abandonment. **Self-sufficiency or unwillingness on the part of your parent(s)/stepparent(s) to assist you financially is not a basis for an appeal in the absence of extenuating circumstances.** The Department of Education has identified four conditions that, individually or in combination with one another, do not qualify as “extenuating circumstances” or that do not merit a dependency override. Those 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.

The law requires that a determination of extenuating circumstances be made each award year. A determination of independence in one award year does not automatically mean a student would be deemed independent in another year. Also, a dependency override at one school may not automatically warrant independent status at another school.

Students should be aware that a school is not required to perform dependency overrides, and if the financial aid administrator determines that an override is not appropriate, the decision cannot be appealed to the U.S. Department of Education.

Procedures for appeal:

1. Complete the attached Dependency Override Appeal Form **and** Income and Expense Form.
2. Write a personal statement in which you explain the extenuating circumstances that exists in your family. Make sure your statement is complete and specific.
3. Submit copies of your 2010 federal income tax return. If your income was less than \$7500, include in your statement an explanation telling how you lived on a low income.
4. Provide statements from at least two professional adults who are familiar with and can verify the circumstance. Professional adults would include teachers, clergy, guidance counselors, law enforcement officials, social workers, or doctors. The statements must be signed, and if not on letterhead, statements must be notarized.
5. Complete 2011-12 FAFSA

Upon receipt of your documentation, it may be necessary to request additional information to clarify or supplement information already submitted. You will be notified if additional documentation is needed. Feel free to contact the Mid-South Community College Financial Aid Office if you have any additional questions.

Dependency Override Appeal Form 2011-2012

Biographical Information

Name: Last _____ First _____ MI _____

SS # _____ Date of Birth _____ Home Phone # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Names(s) of Parents(s) _____

Parent(s) Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Employment Information

Current Employer _____ Date of Employment _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone # _____

**If you currently have more than one employer, attach a separate sheet of paper.*

Do You Have Any Untaxed Income? (Social Security, welfare benefits, worker's compensation, etc)

YES NO Source _____ Amount per month \$ _____

Miscellaneous Information

Do You Drive A Car? YES NO

Is Auto Insurance in Your Name or Your Parents Name? _____

Name of insurance company: _____

Insurance policy #: _____

Do You Rent/Lease a House or Apartment? YES NO

Amount Paid Monthly for Housing: \$ _____

If "yes" name on rental agreement or lease _____

If the answer is "no," where you are residing? _____

If "no" tell us on a separate sheet of paper how (by what means) you live.

I certify that all information furnished on this form, including personal statements and documentation, is true to the best of my knowledge. I further understand that if I am found to have intentionally provided any false or misleading information or documentation, my appeal will be denied and could affect my eligibility for future financial aid.

Student signature _____ Date _____

Income and Expense Form

All students applying for a dependency appeal must submit the following information:

Name _____ Social Security Number _____

| <u>Income:</u> | |
|--|-----------------|
| Estimated monthly income and benefits for year 2011: | |
| Estimated earned income (Wages, Salaries, Tips) | \$ _____ |
| Untaxed income (Social Security, disability, unemployment, etc.) | \$ _____ |
| Child support | \$ _____ |
| Welfare Benefits including TANF | \$ _____ |
| Food Stamps and/or WIC | \$ _____ |
| Rent and/or Utility Subsidy | \$ _____ |
| Other | \$ _____ |
| TOTAL | \$ _____ |
| <u>Expenses:</u> | |
| Estimated Monthly Expenses: | |
| Housing (Rent/Mortgage) | \$ _____ |
| Average Utilities (electric, water, phone, etc.) | \$ _____ |
| Insurance (auto & health) | \$ _____ |
| Car payment | \$ _____ |
| Other transportation expenses (fuel and maintenance) | \$ _____ |
| Food | \$ _____ |
| Clothing | \$ _____ |
| Miscellaneous (medical expenses, entertainment, etc.) | \$ _____ |
| Total: | \$ _____ |