

Request for Review of Dependency Status

According to the Department of Education you are considered a dependent student unless you can answer “yes” to at least one of the following questions and can provide required documentation to support it:

- Were you born before January 1, 1986?
- As of today, are you married? (Also answer “Yes” if you are separated but not divorced.)
- At the beginning of the 2009–2010 school year, will you be working on a master’s or doctorate program?
- Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training?
- Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?
- Do you have children or other dependents who will receive more than half of their support from you between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010?
- At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care, or were you a dependent or ward of the court?
- Are you or were you an emancipated minor as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?
- Are you or were you in legal guardianship as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?
- At any time on or after July 1, 2008, did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless?
- At any time on or after July 1, 2008, did the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless?
- At any time on or after July 1, 2008, did the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?

If you answered “NO” you may still have an extenuating circumstance that can be considered such as:

- Is there an abusive family environment? If yes, provide a police report or statement from the Department of Family and Children’s Services (DFACS).
- Were you abandoned by your parents? If yes, provide court documentation and statements from your pastor, counselors, doctors, etc.
- Is your parent (parents) incarcerated? If yes, please provide documentation.

Should there be other circumstances beyond these questions you will need to request a time to speak with our verification specialists within the Department of Financial Aid.

Please read the other side of this form.

You do not qualify for independent status because your:

- Parents refuse to contribute to your education.
- Parents are unwilling to provide information on the application or for verification.
- Parents do not claim you as a dependent for income tax purposes.
- Situation demonstrates self-sufficiency.
- Status is divorced.

Beginning with the 2009-2010 FAFSA dependent students are given the option of electing to have their FAFSA processed without providing parental information. As a dependent student you are required to provide this information unless extenuating circumstances exist. In order for the University of West Georgia to continue processing your financial aid you will need to complete one of the following steps:

- 1) Return to your saved FAFSA (www.fafsa.ed.gov) and provide your parental information including your parent's signature. Your parents can sign the FAFSA by downloading a signature page or using an electronic PIN number (www.pin.ed.gov). Instructions for either type of signature are found at the end of the FAFSA.
- 2) Use the link below to provide a detailed statement that explains why you did not provide the parental information as requested. The University of West Georgia will use this information to determine if there are grounds for making you an independent student. http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/financialAid/09-10_Missing_Parent_Info.pdf

If it is determined that your status is a dependent student and you elect NOT to provide your parental information, the only federal aid you will be eligible to receive is an unsubsidized Stafford loan.

If you are eligible for the Hope Scholarship you must complete the GSFAPPS located at www.gacollege411.org in order to receive those funds.