



SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY FINANCIAL AID OFFICE 2012-13 DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE REQUEST FORM

An independent student is defined by Federal financial aid regulations as someone who fits into one or more of eleven specific categories. Under these categories, a student is independent if he or she can answer yes to at least one of the following:

1. were born before January 1, 1989;
2. are you working on a master's or doctorate degree or graduate certificate in the fall of 2012;
3. are you married as of the date you complete the FAFSA;
4. do you have children who receive more than half their support from you;
5. do you have dependents other than your spouse or children who live with you and who receive more than half their support from you;
6. do you have no living parents (biological or adoptive) when you were age 13, even if you are now adopted;
7. are or were in foster care or were ward or dependent of the court at any time when you were 13 or older (even if you are not anymore);
8. are you an emancipated minor or are in legal guardianship as determined by the court in your state of legal residence;
9. are you a self-supporting unaccompanied youth who is homeless or at risk of homelessness;
10. are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces (or will be a veteran as of June 30, 2013), or you attended a service academy and were released under a condition other than dishonorable;
11. are you currently servicing on active duty (other than training) in the U.S. Armed Forces.

The law allows you an opportunity to petition the Financial Aid Administrator for a Dependency Override. The Financial aid administrators may grant Dependency Overrides for students with "unusual circumstances" on a case-by-case basis and must document the "unusual circumstances" each award year. In recent years, the U.S. Department of Education has identified four conditions that, individually or in combination with one another, **DO NOT** qualify as "unusual circumstances" and 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 FAFSA application or for verification;
3. Parents not claiming the students as a dependent for income tax purposes;
4. Student demonstrating total self-sufficiency.

The U.S. Department of Education recognizes examples of "unusual circumstances" to be, but are not limited to, an abusive family environment or abandonment by parents. Please submit the following documentation with this form:

1. A detailed letter (typed) explaining in your own words;
2. Three (3) letters of support from non-relatives (e.g., proprietor, employer, teacher and/or clergy), which can confirm the statements in your letter of explanation. The letters of support should also include how they know you and how long they have known you;
3. All other documentation you believe will help demonstrate your independent status.

By signing, I am certifying that this request is subject to the professional judgment of the Santa Clara University Financial Aid Office. This request may be subject to further documentation and all subsequent decisions are final. I understand that I must renew this Dependency Override each award year, the outcome may change each year and it applies only to your attendance at Santa Clara University.

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

****WARNING:** If you purposely give false or misleading information on this form to help establish eligibility for Federal Student Aid, you may be fined \$10,000, receive a prison sentence or both. All form, paperwork, documents and other items submitted are property of Santa Clara University and will be kept and maintain with applicant file.