



Renewal to Be Declared an Independent Student for Federal Aid (Title IV) Purposes

Student's Full Name _____

81 _____
 Student's UGA ID

Student's UGA Email _____

Student's Telephone Number _____

The law governing Federal Student Aid (Title IV) categorizes students as "dependent" or "independent" based on the premise the student and parents have the primary responsibility for meeting the student's educational costs. This premise applies even when the parents are not actually supporting the student.

The institution's financial aid administrator is given the statutory authority to exercise "professional judgement" and declare a dependent student independent if he or she determines this action would be reasonable in light of documented **unusual or unique** circumstances.

A decision to declare a student independent applies only to the student's Title IV Federal Aid at the University of Georgia and only to one award year. Students declared independent for the academic year must be **reviewed annually**.

The financial aid administrator's decision is final and is **not** appealable to the U. S. Department of Education.

To document your **unusual or unique** circumstances, please provide the following documentation. Be sure you sign your statement.

NOTE: Parents refusal to contribute financially or unwillingness to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or the student not being claimed on the parent(s)' Federal Tax Return, or the student showing total self-sufficiency are not reasons to declare a student Independent for Federal Student Financial Aid. However, some unusual circumstances which qualify as reasons to declare a student Independent may include, but are not limited to: parental abandonment of the student, abusive family environment which threatens the student's physical/emotional health of safety, or student's inability to locate parents for a long-term and on going basis.

Required items:

- Signed statement describing your unusual or unique family situation.**
 - If your situation has not changed within the past year this should be reflected in your letter.
 - If your circumstances have changed, please explain how your situation has changed in the past year.

- Please include your most recent Federal Tax Transcript, W-2's, or a statement explaining how you financially supported yourself for the last calendar year.

I certify the information provided is true and correct. If independent status is approved, I am aware I must document this status on an annual basis.

Student's Signature _____

_____ Date