



Office of Financial Aid

Petition to Apply for Financial Aid as an Independent Student

Name _____ Last 4 digits SSN or Brenau ID _____

Academic year for which you are petitioning: _____ Email _____

Traditionally, student financial aid programs point to the student's family as the primary source of support for the student's college education. If you are a student who is considered dependent on your parents according to the federal student aid definition, your eligibility for financial aid is determined by using parental financial information in addition to your own. Dependent students are required by law to provide parental information along with a parent's signature in order to be considered for need-based financial aid. Occasionally students who meet the dependent student definition have unusual circumstances that suggest they be considered independent from their parents. In these types of unusual cases, financial aid administrators may consider granting a dependency override on a case-by-case basis.

Please note that **none** of the conditions listed below, either alone or in combination with another, qualify as unusual circumstances or merit a dependency override:

- 1) Parents refuse to contribute to the student's education;
- 2) Parents are unwilling to provide information on the application or for verification;
- 3) Parents do not claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes;
- 4) Student demonstrates total self-sufficiency.

Unusual circumstances **do include** an abusive family environment or abandonment by parents, both of which may cause any of the above conditions. After reviewing this information, if you feel that your circumstances warrant a dependency override, please complete the top of this form and attach the following documentation:

- 1) A written statement in which you identify the **specific** unusual family circumstances that cause you to make this request. Be sure to include the following:
 - The whereabouts of your parents (if they are not deceased) along with the last time you received any type of support from them (i.e., housing, food, cash, or expenses paid on your behalf).
 - The names of persons who have been supporting you financially, or how you are supporting yourself, if that is the case.
- 2) A written statement from a responsible adult (preferably not a family member) who can attest to your situation.

Return this form and all supporting documentation to the Brenau University Office of Financial Aid at 500 Washington St., SE, Gainesville, GA 30501, or fax it to 770-538-4306.

I certify that the information provided in this petition is true and correct.

Signature _____ Date _____

For Office Use Only:

Granted petition for independent status. **Denied petition for independent status.**

Comments: _____

Signature _____ **Date** _____