

2020-2021 Petition for Independent Status

Dear Student,

Your 2020-2021 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) was submitted without parental information. Under Federal law your family is primarily responsible - to the extent they are able - for assisting with your college expenses and their information must be reported on your FAFSA. Only under very limited circumstances may an otherwise dependent student receive Federal student aid without providing parental data. If you believe you should be exempt from providing parental information on your FAFSA, please complete this application and return to the Office of Student Financial Aid.

Examples of extenuating circumstances include:

- Your parents are incarcerated
- You have left home due to an abusive family environment
- You do not know where your parents are and are unable to contact them (and you have not been adopted).

Not all situations are considered a special circumstance. The following situations will not be considered in your petition for Independent Status:

- Your parents choose not to provide their information on your FAFSA
- Your parents refuse to contribute to your college expenses
- Your parents do not claim you as a dependent on their income taxes
- You do not live with your parents

You must document your situation. Documentation might include court documents, letters from a clergy member, school counselor or social worker, or any other relevant data detailing your circumstance.

The Financial Aid Administrator (FAA) has final authority to decide whether or not you must provide parental information on your FAFSA. After reviewing your application carefully, your FAA will decide if you must provide parental information or if your circumstances allow you to receive financial aid without parent information.

Please note that failure to supply supporting documentation will result in an automatic denial of your request for independent status. You may fax your documentation to 417-836-8392, email or return by mail to the address at the top of this page.

If you have any questions, please contact us by phone at 417-836-5262 or by email at financialaid@missouristate.edu.

Phone: (417) 836-5262
Fax: (417) 836-8392
FinancialAid@MissouriState.edu
@MSU_FinAid



OFFICE of
STUDENT
FINANCIAL AID

Office of Student Financial Aid
901 S. National Ave.
Springfield, MO 65897
www.MissouriState.edu/FinancialAid

2020-2021 Petition for Independent Status

Student's Name (Last) (First) M
BearPass # Student's Date of Birth

A. Previous Status

Were you (the student) declared an independent student by Missouri State University in a previous year?

☐ No ☐ Yes

Were you declared an independent student by another college or university in a previous year?

☐ No ☐ Yes (Name of college or university) _____

B. Documentation

This form should be completed and returned to the Office of Student Financial Aid with the following

1. A signed statement from you (the student) containing
 - a. The location of both parents, when you last lived with them, and when you last had contact with them
 - b. A brief explanation of the circumstances which make you an independent student
2. Documentation from third parties (e.g., law enforcement, high school counselor, teacher, clergyman) to support the circumstances described in your statement. At least two pieces of documentation are preferred.
3. [2020-2021 Independent Verification Worksheet](#)
4. Copies of your 2018 W-2s
5. One of the following:
 - c. Successful transfer of your 2018 tax return to your FAFSA using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT)
 - d. A signed copy of your 2018 Federal Tax Return

We are unable to process incomplete applications

C. Certification Statement & Signature

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the information on this form, that I have appropriately attached all supporting documents, and certify that all information submitted is accurate and true to the best of my knowledge. I understand that submitting this form does not guarantee that my request for financial aid will be granted.

Student's Signature

Date

For Office Use Only

Decision: ____ Approved ____ Denied ____ Delayed Date: _____

Committee Review 1 Name: _____ Decision: _____

Committee Review 2 Name: _____ Decision: _____

Committee Review 3 Name: _____ Decision: _____