



Request for Independent Status -- Itasca CC

2008-2009

Name _____

Soc. Security or Student ID# _____

Address _____

Date of Birth ___/___/___

An **independent** student is defined as any individual who:

1. is 24 years of age or older by December 31 of the award year
2. is an orphan or ward of the court, or was a ward of the court until age 18
3. is a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States
4. is currently serving on non-training related active duty in the Armed Services
5. is a graduate student or a professional student
6. has children who receive more than half of their support from the student
7. has dependents other than children/spouse who live with and receive >50% support from the student.
8. is married

If you do not meet any of these criteria but feel you should be considered as an independent student for financial aid purposes at Itasca Community College **because of unusual or extenuating circumstances**, you must:

1. Attach a TYPED personal statement which explains your situation in detail. Explain the circumstances and history behind your home situation, why you no longer live with your parents, and why they no longer support you.
2. Complete this form in its entirety.
3. **Attach documentation from at least two professional sources** such as: clergy, counselor, social worker, mental health professional, medical professional, attorney, other professional which verifies the information you indicate in your personal statement.

Extenuating circumstances are defined as severe circumstances that prevent you from obtaining parental financial information such as but not limited to:

- a) a documented abusive home situation which is detrimental to your physical or mental well-being
- b) Abandonment by both parents

Many students feel that they are independent because they currently live on their own or because their parents no longer claim them on their income taxes. Others feel they are independent because their parents refuse to provide information on the FAFSA, for the verification process, or simply refuse to contribute to the student's education. These reasons are not sufficient for a student to be considered independent for financial aid purposes.

STUDENT RESOURCES AND EXPENSES

Resources:

Please indicate amount and sources of your yearly income for 2007 and 2008. **ATTACH PROOF FOR 2007.**
(wage statements, tax copies, award letters, etc.)

2007: \$ _____
2008: \$ _____

Expenses: Please complete the following for your 2007 and 2008 yearly expenses:

	Actual 2007	Estimated 2008
Housing	\$ _____	\$ _____
Food	\$ _____	\$ _____
Transportation (car payments, insurance, (gas, maintenance)	\$ _____	\$ _____
Utilities	\$ _____	\$ _____
Child care/dependent care	\$ _____	\$ _____
Personal (clothing, entertainment, etc.)	\$ _____	\$ _____
Other _____ (type)	\$ _____	\$ _____
TOTAL	\$ _____	\$ _____

STUDENT CERTIFICATION:

I certify that the information provided on this form is true and correct. I also understand that it will be used to override federal regulations regarding my dependency status.

I fully understand that to falsify any information on this form in order to receive Federal Title IV funds is a federal offense and can be punishable by a \$20,000 fine, imprisonment, or both.

I understand that if my situation changes in any way, if I move back with my parents or receive any kind of support from them, that I must report this information to the Financial Aid Office.

I understand that by signing this form, I authorize the financial Aid Office to contact my third-party reference and verify any information supplied on this form.

Student Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

The Financial Aid Office has used Professional Judgment and determined that this student is:

INDEPENDENT

DEPENDENT

Remarks:



Instructions for Third Party Documentation

2008-2009

In extraordinary and documented cases, the Financial Aid Office has the authority to use professional judgment to override a student's dependency status in order to make a student independent for the purpose of applying for financial aid. A student must be unable to obtain his/her parents' information because of extenuating circumstances.

A parent's unwillingness to provide the information or inability to help support the student are not acceptable reasons for an appeal. Students must submit a Request for Independent Student Status and at least two Third party reference letters to the Financial Aid Office for consideration of a dependency override.

The information stated in the Request for Independent Student Status must be verified by a third party who is aware of your home situation and can verify the information you have provided. Examples of such persons include, but are not limited to: employer, clergy, social worker, attorney, court official, teacher, counselor, psychiatrist, psychologist, medical professional, law enforcement agent, etc.

Instructions for third party reference:

Third party documentation must be on a SEPARATE sheet of letterhead paper. Please include any information of which you have first hand knowledge and that you feel best describes the student's situation. The following is a list of information that MUST be included in your letter:

1. How long have you known the student?
2. Your relationship to the student.
3. When was the last time the student lived with and/or received financial support from his/her parents?
4. Any knowledge of his/her relationship with their parents.
5. The steps that the student has taken to establish their independence from their parents.

Please make sure to include your professional title, name and type of business, business address, telephone number, and where to contact you should any additional information be required.