

2020-2021 Dependency Status Override Request



Please complete, sign and return this form to:
St. Cloud Technical and Community College
Financial Aid Office
1540 Northway Drive
St Cloud, MN 56303

Name (last, first, middle initial)

Tech ID #

Phone Number

E-mail Address

Step 1: Determining Eligibility

For determining eligibility for Federal Student Financial Aid, a student is automatically Independent if:

- the student was born before January 1, 1997
- the student is working on a master's or doctoral degree or graduate certificate program
- the student is married
- the student is an orphan (both parents are deceased)
- the student is a veteran of the US Armed Forces
- the student is currently serving on active duty in the US Armed Forces for purposes other than training
- the student has a child or children who receive more than half support from the student
- the student was in foster care or was a ward of the court at any time since the student turned age 14
- the student has dependents who live with the student *and* receive more than half support from the student
- the student is an emancipated minor as determined by a court in the student's state of legal residence
- the student's high school or school district homeless liaison determined that the student was an unaccompanied youth who was homeless (since July 1, 2019)
- the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by HUD determined the student was an unaccompanied youth who was homeless (since July 1, 2019)
- the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determined the student was an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or was self-supporting and at risk of being homeless (since July 1, 2019)

Students not meeting one or more of these criteria are considered DEPENDENT by the US Department of Education.

If you do not meet one of the above options, as a student, you are NOT considered Independent if:

- your parents are unwilling to assist you financially
- you consider yourself financially independent from your parents
- your parents are unwilling to provide information for the application process
- you are in a disagreement with your parents
- you live in a different residence than your parents
- you claim yourself on your federal income tax return (or your parents do not claim you)

While these circumstances may commonly indicate the independence of an individual, the US Department of Education has specifically stated they do NOT qualify a student for Independent status. Schools are prohibited from granting a dependency override on these conditions.

Students may request a Dependency Override IF...

- you can document a continued relationship with your parent(s) is physically and/or emotionally detrimental
- your parent(s) permanently reside in a country with which the United States does not maintain normal diplomatic relations

If you have an unusual circumstance, continue to Step 2

Step 2: Mark the item and provide documentation for your situation

- ___ I am estranged from my parents due to irreparable family breakdown (ie: abuse and/or neglect)
Include: **TWO** letters from a professional third party from whom you have sought support and/or advice specific to your claim.
A professional third party is defined as a person from whom you have sought assistance and who has no financial or personal interest in the outcome of this application. (ie: high school counselor, teacher, therapist, physician, clergy). Relatives, employers, friends, etc., cannot supply this information.
- ___ I have been supported by an agency (ie: child protective services) for reasons other than personal choice.
Include: A letter from the agency supporting your request.
- ___ My custodial parent is deceased and I have had no contact or support from my non-custodial parent since (date) _____.
Include: A copy of the death certificate for the custodial parent **AND**
Provide name of non-custodial parent: _____ **AND**
Provide last known address of non-custodial parent _____ **AND**
Attach one letter from a professional third party from whom you have sought support and/or advice.
A professional third party is defined as a person from whom you have sought assistance and who has no financial or personal interest in the outcome of this application. (ie: high school counselor, teacher, therapist, physician, clergy). Relatives, employers, friends, etc., cannot supply this information.
- ___ My parents live in a country with which the United States does not maintain normal diplomatic relations.
Include: Name of country: _____
Proof of parent(s) permanent residency in that country (ie: copy of parental passport)

Step 3: Required Documentation for all requests

- ___ A written statement detailing the circumstances regarding your relationship with both biological and/or legally adoptive parents. Include specific dates of events that caused your separation from your parents; where you have lived since separating from your parents and your sources of income.
- ___ A completed 2020-2021 FAFSA Application
If submitted online at www.fafsa.gov, indicate when it was submitted: _____
If you have not yet submitted the application at www.fafsa.gov, contact the financial aid office for a 2020-2021 paper FAFSA
- ___ If you worked in 2018, attach a 2016 IRS Tax Return Transcript
- ___ If you worked in 2018, attach a copy of all your 2018 W2 Forms

By signing this form, I certify all information reported on this form and within the enclosed documentation is complete and correct. I understand that providing false or misleading information may result in a \$20,000 fine, a prison sentence, or both, according to the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, Section 490(a). Any false or misleading information is subject to cancellation of all Federal financial assistance.

Student Signature _____

Date _____