

Often unmarried students who are under the age of 24 are required to provide parental data on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). They are referred to as dependent students. However, dependent students with unusual circumstances may appeal to the Office of Financial Aid for a dependency override. A dependency override would allow the student to be considered an independent student (for financial aid purposes only) and exempt the student from providing parental data on their FAFSA.

Dependency Override Policy

Annually, and on a case-by-case basis, the Office of Financial Aid may permit a dependency override for otherwise dependent students with unusual circumstances.

*Conditions that **qualify** for a dependency override include students, under the age of 24, who cannot rely on parental support from either parent because each parent meets one of the following criteria:*

- Parent is deceased.
- Parent is incarcerated.
- Unusual parental circumstances (e.g., parent's whereabouts are unknown, abusive family environment, abandonment by parent, etc.).

Students who are unaccompanied and are homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless are encouraged to complete the Unaccompanied Homeless Verification Form, instead of the Dependency Status Appeal Form.

*Conditions, singly or in combination, that **do not qualify** for a dependency override include:*

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

Dependency Override Process

The priority deadline to submit the Dependency Status Appeal Form and supporting documentation to Enrollment Services is **April 1, 2027**. A student's financial aid must be offered and accepted before the end of the academic year or before a student ceases enrollment, whichever is earlier.

Appeals will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and all information will be kept confidential. The submission of an appeal and documentation does not guarantee appeal approval.

Upon receipt of a Dependency Status Appeal Form and supporting documentation, the Office of Financial Aid will review the student's circumstance and documentation. Students with unusual circumstances that qualify for a dependency override will be deemed an independent student for the aid year.

The Office of Financial Aid will notify students via their Wright State University e-mail account when the result of their Dependency Status Appeal Form is available to view in Wings and the Financial Aid Dashboard.

Supporting Documentation

Students are required to submit supporting documentation with their appeal. The supporting documentation will vary depending on the student's unusual circumstances. Students must provide documentation for each parent. For the conditions that qualify for dependency override, the following items are requested:

Circumstance	Requested Documentation
Parent is deceased	A copy of the parent's death certificate
Parent is incarcerated	Documentation that verifies the parent is incarcerated and lists the parent's anticipated release date
Unusual parental circumstances	A signed statement from a third-party professional who knows the student's <i>current</i> unusual parental circumstances

Signed statements from third-party professionals must document the student's unusual circumstances as they relate to the parent in question. If a written statement is required for both parents, one written statement from a third-party professional that documents the student's unusual circumstances as they relate to both parents is acceptable. This person should know and understand what the student's *current* circumstances are.

Examples of a third-party professional relationship include:

- Current/former teacher
- Counselor (school or wellness)
- Members of clergy
- Social worker
- Employer

Third-party professional letters should document the following:

- A **signed** statement from a third-party professional should be on the letterhead of the business or organization that they represent. If letterhead is not obtainable, the person's name, title, phone number, business/organization, and address should be included.
- The student's name as it appears in our records
- The relationship between the professional and the student should be stated

The Office of Financial Aid may contact third-party professionals who provide supporting documentation.

Definitions

Unaccompanied—when a student is not living in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

Parent—a student's biological or adoptive parent. A student's stepparent, foster parent, or legal guardian is not considered a parent unless they have adopted the student.

Homeless—lacking fixed, regular, and adequate housing. For example, temporarily living with other people because he/she has nowhere else to go; living in substandard housing; living in emergency or transitional shelters (FEMA trailers after disasters); living in motels, camping grounds, cars, parks, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, or any public place not designed for humans to live; or living in the school dormitory (e.g., on-campus housing) if the student would otherwise be homeless.

- *Self-supporting*—when a student pays for his/her own living expenses, including, fixed, regular, and adequate housing.
- *At risk of being homeless*—when a student's housing may cease to be fixed, regular, and adequate, for example, a student who is being evicted and has been unable to find fixed, regular, and adequate housing.
- *Fixed housing*—stationary, permanent, and not subject to change.
- *Regular housing*—used on a predictable, routine, or consistent basis.
- *Adequate housing*—sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in the home.



OFFICE OF
FINANCIAL AID

Dependency Status Appeal Form

2026-2027 | PJDEPO | Dep Status Appeal

The priority deadline to submit the Dependency Status Appeal Form and supporting documentation to Enrollment Services is **April 1, 2027**. A student's financial aid must be offered and accepted before the end of the academic year or before a student ceases enrollment, whichever is earlier. Students are encouraged to visit their Financial Aid Dashboard to monitor the status of their appeal, including requests for additional documentation, or to view adjustments to their financial aid offer.

Student Data

Student Name: _____ University ID (UID): _____ Required ▼

Current Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Other Phone: _____

Section A: 2026-2027 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

Please indicate your FAFSA filing status (check one):

- ☐ I have filed my 2026-2027 FAFSA and listed Wright State University.
☐ I have not filed - but I will file my 2026-2027 FAFSA and will list Wright State University (003078).

FAFSA filing instructions: <https://www.wright.edu/enrollment-services/financial-aid/dependency-status#instructions>

Section B: Unusual Circumstance and Requested Documentation

Appeals can only be reviewed with a completed form and required documentation

Parent 1 Name _____ Parent 2 Name _____

Check appropriate circumstances and provide requested documentation for each parent (biological or adoptive).

Parent 1	Parent 2	Circumstance	Requested Documentation
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Parent is deceased	A copy of the parent's death certificate
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Parent is incarcerated	Documentation that verifies the parent is incarcerated and lists the parent's anticipated release date
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unusual parental circumstance	A written statement from a third-party professional who knows the student's current situation

Section C: Certification

I certify that all information entered is complete and correct. I understand the Office of Financial Aid reserves the right to contact third-party professionals who have provided supporting documentation. I agree to submit additional documentation should the Office of Financial Aid make such a request. I understand my appeal could be denied.

Signatures cannot be typed.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____