

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO  
STUDENT FINANCIAL AID OFFICE  
PETITION FOR INDEPENDENT STATUS  
2016–2017

The U.S. Congress and Department of Education determine the criteria for whether a student is considered dependent or independent of their parents for financial aid purposes. Generally, how an applicant responds to the questions in “**Step Three**” on the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** determines dependency status.

**The questions in “Step Three” on the FAFSA are:**

1. Were you born before January 1, 1993?
2. As of today, are you married? (Also answer “Yes” if you are separated but not divorced.) “As of today” refers to the day that you signed your FAFSA.
3. At the beginning of the 2016–2017 school year, will you be working on a master’s or doctorate program (such as an MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD, graduate certificate, etc.)?
4. Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training?
5. Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?
6. Do you have children who will receive more than half of their support from you between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017?
7. Do you have dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you, now and through June 30, 2017?
8. At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care or were you a dependent or ward of the court?
9. As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, are you or were you an emancipated minor?
10. As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, are you or were you in legal guardianship?
11. At any time on or after July 1, 2015, did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless?
12. At any time on or after July 1, 2015, did the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless?
13. At any time on or after July 1, 2015, did the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?

If you do not meet one of the above conditions, but feel there are extenuating circumstances which warrant being considered independent of your parents, you may explain those circumstances in this petition.

**The federal government has identified four conditions that, individually or in combination with one another, do not qualify as “extenuating circumstances”, and do not merit a dependency override. Those circumstances are:**

1. Parents refusing to contribute to the student’s education;
2. Parents unwilling to provide information on the application or for verification;
3. Parents not claiming the student as a dependent for income tax purposes; and
4. Student demonstrating total self-sufficiency.

**Financial/Other Support Received from Parent(s)/Stepparent(s):**

- 1) What amount of financial support did you receive from your parent(s)/stepparent(s) in 2015? \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) What amount of financial support will you receive from your parent(s)/stepparent(s) in 2016? \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) What other support do you receive from your parent(s)/stepparent(s)? (**Examples:** health or auto insurance, room and board, clothing, use of a vehicle, etc.)

**List the type of other support received and its approximate value:**

Type: _____	Approximate Value: \$ _____
Type: _____	Approximate Value: \$ _____
Type: _____	Approximate Value: \$ _____
Type: _____	Approximate Value: \$ _____
Type: _____	Approximate Value: \$ _____
Type: _____	Approximate Value: \$ _____

**Please submit the documentation listed below with this petition:**

- Signed copies of your parent(s)/stepparent(s) 2015 federal income tax returns
- Signed copy of your 2015 federal income tax return
- Documentation of any income or resources received in 2015 that are not on your tax return
- Documentation of where you lived since January 2015 (e.g., signed lease agreements, housing contract, etc.)
- Provide at least three letters of support from members of the community familiar with your circumstance (example: clergy, counselors, teachers, etc.).
- Written summary of your extenuating circumstances.

**For your petition to be considered, you must not have been claimed as a tax exemption by a parent or stepparent in 2015. Your parent(s)/stepparent(s) must not have used you as the basis to file income taxes as “head of household.”**

SUMMARY OF CIRCUMSTANCES

Please summarize your circumstances (attach a separate sheet of paper if necessary):

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**By signing this worksheet, I hereby certify that the information reported is complete and correct.**

<b>Student’s Printed Name</b>	<b>Student’s Signature</b>	<b>UNM ID Number</b>
<b>E-mail Address</b>	<b>Telephone Number</b>	<b>Date Signed</b>

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