

MOUNTWEST COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Student Financial Assistance

2011-2012 Appeal for Independent Status for Financial Aid Consideration

Federal financial aid regulations dictate the criteria under which a student applies independently of parents for financial aid. Occasionally, however, extraordinary individual circumstances allow a student to file as an independent without meeting the FAFSA criteria. Examples of situations where dependency override appeals may be approved included but are not limited to: documented parental drug abuse, parent mental incapacity, physical or emotional abuse and parental incarceration. Exceptions (or a dependency override) may be made on a case-by-case basis.

If you wish to appeal for Independent Status for financial aid consideration, you take the following steps:

1. If not already done so, complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) by going to www.Fafsa.ed.gov
2. Submit a signed and dated personal letter stating the unusual and/or extenuating circumstances that have caused you to become independent from your parents, when you became independent, and how you have been providing for your basic necessities (food, shelter, clothing, medical care and transportation). Attach appropriate documentation.
3. Submit at least two letters from third parties who personally have knowledge of your situation and who can verify your circumstances. At least one letter on letterhead must be from a guidance counselor, physician, social worker, clergy or another individual who has been involved in the circumstances in a professional capacity. All letters need to include a telephone number and address where the individual can be reached for follow up questions.
4. If not already done so, submit a signed copy of your 2009 Federal Income Tax Return (1040, 1040A or 1040EZ).

The circumstances listed below DO NOT qualify as “unusual and special circumstances” or that do not merit a dependency override.

1. Your parents do not want to provide their information on your FAFSA; or
2. Your parents refuse to contribute to your college expenses; or
3. Your parents do not claim you as a dependent on their income taxes; or
4. You do not live with your parents.

When you are not able to provide parental information on the FAFSA because the conditions above apply to you, you may file FAFSA without parental information. However, you will not receive an official Expected Family Contribution (EFC) which is required to calculate your eligibility for all federal, state and institutional financial aid programs. In this instance, you may consider a private educational loan; however, you most likely will need a credit-worthy co-signer for approval.

I declare that the information that I submit with this appeal is true and correct. I authorize the information to be used in conjunction with that reported on the FAFSA for the purpose of calculating eligibility for financial aid. I agree to provide any other official documentation necessary if requested. I also authorize the Financial Aid Appeals Committee to seek information from other Mountwest Community and Technical College offices when appropriate.

Student's Name (print)

Student's MCTC ID

Student's Signature

Date