

The following do NOT qualify as reasons for requesting a dependency appeal:

1. You do not live with your parents.
2. Your parents do not claim you on their income tax returns.
3. Your parents do not give you money.



If any of the above are main reasons for your request, please **DO NOT** complete this form, as you do not meet the qualifications to request a dependency appeal. You must provide your parental data to receive financial aid.

According to Federal regulations, to be considered an independent student for the purposes of financial aid, a student must meet one on the following conditions:

1. Be born before January 1, 1984
2. Be a veteran of the armed forces
3. Be married
4. Be a ward of the court or both of your parents are dead
5. Be a graduate or professional student
6. Have dependent(s) other than a spouse (i.e., a child for whom you provide at least half of the financial support.)

In unusual circumstances, a student who does not meet any of the dependency criteria may still be considered to be independent on the basis of the financial aid administrator's professional judgment.

From the 2006-2007 Federal Student Aid Handbook:

"A student's claim that his parents have refused to contribute to his college education isn't automatically grounds for a dependency override. Nor can an aid administrator override the student's dependent status solely because the student's parents have said that they are unwilling to provide information on the application or information needed for verification."

Since you do not meet the federal definition of an independent student, you must provide documentation that demonstrates **unusual circumstances** that make it unreasonable to expect parental data on your application for financial aid.

It is important that you complete all portions of this appeal form and provide all requested documentation. **INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE EVALUATED.** We will not ask you to provide missing information, the appeal will simply not be considered.

A complete dependency appeal consists of the following:

1. Completed 2007-2008 Appeal for Independent Status form
2. A minimum of three (3) completed reference forms. References must be from persons who can verify your circumstances. Acceptable references include:
 - a. Close relative (other than parent) with whom you are not living
 - b. High school counselor, principal or superintendent
 - c. Tax accountant and/or attorney
 - d. Person(s) with whom you reside
 - e. Director of boy's ranches, children's homes, girl's towns or similar institutions
 - f. Pastor

IMPORTANT NOTE: UNSIGNED LETTERS OF REFERENCE ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE. REFERENCE FORMS MUST BE COMPLETED ENTIRELY.

1. A copy of your 2006 federal income tax return
2. A copy of your parent(s)'s 2006 federal income tax return
3. A copy of your lease agreement

OR

A statement from the family or person with whom you reside.

If you are unable to provide requested documentation, you must explain why it is not being provided; otherwise your application will be considered incomplete and will not be evaluated.

Please remember YOU must prove that you are an independent student for the purposes of financial aid. If the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid determines that the information and documentation provided by you do not justify changing your dependency status, the decision is final and cannot be appealed to the U.S. Department of Education.

Warning: If you purposely give false or misleading information, you may be fined, be sentenced to jail or both.

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON-DOWNTOWN

2007-2008 Appeal for Independent Status

Name: _____ SS# _____

Date of Birth _____ / _____ / _____ Phone: (_____) _____

RESIDENCE INFORMATION

Current Address: _____
Street Apt.# City Zip

How long have you lived at the above address? _____ year(s) _____ month(s)

If you lease, please attach a copy of your current lease.

If you have resided at your current address **less than one year**, give your previous address.

Previous Address: _____
Street Apt.# City Zip

How long did you live at the previous address? _____ year(s) _____ month(s)

STUDENT'S STATUS

1. Did you live with your parent(s) in 2006? Yes No

If YES, how long? _____ month(s)

2. Do you/will you live with your parent(s) in 2007? Yes No

If YES, how long? _____ month(s)

3. Did either of your parents claim you as an exemption in 2006? Yes No

Attach copy(ies) of 2006 federal income tax returns.

4. Will either of your parents claim you as an exemption in 2006? Yes No

5. What kind of support did you receive from your parent(s) in 2006? "Support" includes, but is not limited to, money, health insurance, car insurance and room and board.

3. If you have other resources that you feel should be used in making a determination on your appeal, indicate these below:

STUDENT'S EMPLOYMENT

If you are currently employed, attach a letter from your current employer or documentation indicating the date your employment began, the average hours you work per week and your rate of pay.

If you have been employed with your current employer less than one year, provide the following information regarding your previous employment:

Name of Employer: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____

Dates of Employment _____ / _____ to _____ / _____
Month Year Month Year

Hours worked per week: _____ Wages: \$_____ hour/week/month (*circle one*)

If you are currently unemployed, please explain how you meet your living expenses:

CERTIFICATION

I certify that all of the information provided on this form and all attached supporting documentation is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. In addition, I agree to provide any documentation required to evaluate my appeal. I understand that if I do not provide verifiable proof, no further processing will be done on my appeal. I understand that completion of this form is only a request for independent status and does not guarantee approval of my appeal.

Student Signature

Date

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