

2021-2022 Appeal for Independent Status

UAB Office of Student Financial Aid

Student Information

Last Name:	First Name:	Middle Initial:
Blazer ID:	Date of Birth:	
Phone Number:	Email:	
Home Street Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:

SECTION I – DISCLOSURE

Please carefully review and complete all sections of this form. Incomplete appeals will not be considered.

The formula the US Department of Education uses to determine your eligibility for federal financial aid is based on the premise that your family has the primary responsibility to pay for your education. The US Department of Education has established standards to determine who qualifies as a dependent or independent student. The responses to specific questions on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) determine your dependency status.

SECTION II – INSTRUCTIONS

A student has the right to appeal a determination of dependency if certain extenuating circumstances exist. In limited cases, appeals may be granted when the parents cannot be reasonably expected to contribute to the student's educational expenses. A parent contribution would generally not be expected in the following circumstances:

- Parental incarceration or institutionalization
- Parental abandonment of the student
- Abusive home environment

There are conditions, however, that individually or in combination do not merit a dependency override. Those circumstances include:

- Student is self-supporting
- Student is not claimed as a tax exemption for federal tax purposes
- Parent is unable or unwilling to help with college or living expenses
- Parent is unwilling to provide information needed to complete the FAFSA

Please briefly indicate the reason of your request for independent status:

Instructions on how to upload additional information and supporting documentation to the Verification Forms Portal will be emailed to you within 3-5 business days. Your request for independent status is not considered complete until all supporting documentation is received by the Student Financial Aid Office.

You will be asked to provide the following information in the Verification Forms Portal:

- Location of both of your parents
- Detailed explanation of your request for independent status, including the last time you had contact with each of your parents: when, where, and the type of contact
- Where you are currently living and how you pay expenses such as rent, utilities, food, cell phone
- Documentation of car insurance and health insurance (if applicable)
- Signed statements from at least two adults, not related to you, who are aware of your situation and can attest to the claim made in your appeal
 - At least one statement must be from a professional: a counselor, social worker, clergy member, high school guidance counselor, etc. The statement must be on official letterhead, include professional contact information where they may be reached by phone or email, and be signed and dated.
 - Other appropriate documentation includes court documents, police reports, etc.

SECTION IV – CERTIFICATION & SUBMISSION

To the best of my knowledge, the information in this appeal is true. I understand that misrepresentation of facts in connection with this appeal may result in cancellation and repayment of federal financial aid.

Student Signature:	Date:
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To submit your appeal, please save and email this form to the Student Financial Aid Office at finaid@uab.edu.

Supporting documentation should be submitted to the UAB Student Financial Aid Office through the Verification Forms Portal on the student’s My Financial Aid page in BlazerNet. Once we receive this form, you will be notified by email when the Verification Forms Portal is available to upload documentation.

Please allow 10-14 business days for processing. A final decision will be communicated to you via email. Processing times may be substantially longer during peak processing times. Check your BlazerNet and UAB email accounts often for updates regarding your request.

STUDENT FINANCIAL AID
Office of the Provost

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