2021-2022 Independent Status Appeal

**Directions:** The US Department of Education determines your dependency status based on the information provided on your FAFSA. In certain situations, students may submit an appeal requesting a change in their dependency status. An appeal can only be approved in certain limited and exceptional circumstances. The Financial Aid Office will exercise professional judgment in determining if extenuating circumstances exist based on information and documentation provided from the student.

**Important Notice:**
The unwillingness and/or inability of your parents to financially support you and/or living on your own and paying your own bills are not by themselves reasons that demonstrate “exceptional circumstances” and cannot be considered.

Submit completed form to the Financial Aid Office in person, US mail or FAX using the contact information listed above.

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**Student Name:** ____________________________ **Student ID:** @ __________________

**Student Cell Phone:** ______________________

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**STEP 1: FILE THE FAFSA**

You are required to complete your 2021-2022 FAFSA before submitting this form. Complete your FAFSA at [https://studentaid.gov/](https://studentaid.gov/). The school code for EU is 003321.

☐ I have completed my 2021-2022 FAFSA as required

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**STEP 2: NARRATIVE**

A signed and dated narrative that includes a complete history of:

☐ Your relationship with both your biological and/or legally adoptive parents
☐ Specific dates of events that caused your separation from your parents including your last date of contact
☐ Details of how you have been and are supporting yourself

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**STEP 3: PROFESSIONAL LETTERS**

Submit two signed statements from professionals (teachers, counselors, clergy, social worker) familiar with your situation further outlining and verifying the reasons for your request for independent status. The statement must be signed, include their job title, and be on letterhead.

☐ Professional Letter #1
☐ Professional Letter #2

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**STEP 4: 2020 TAX RETURN**

Attach a copy of your 2020 Federal Tax Return and your 2020 W-2 form(s).

☐ A signed copy of your 2020 Federal Tax Return
☐ 2020 W-2 form(s)
STEP 5: CHECKLIST

Check the box and submit all applicable documentation listed. Please turn in these documents at the same time. We cannot process a request with incomplete information. Should you qualify for this request based on the information in the directions but do not have the documentation listed, please contact or visit the Financial Aid Office.

- Completed Independent Appeal form (this form)
- Signed narrative that explains your situation
- Professional Letters (2)
  - Letter #1: Name of Individual: ____________________________
  - Job Title/Relationship: ____________________________
  - Letter #2: Name of Individual: ____________________________
  - Job Title/Relationship: ____________________________
- A signed copy of your 2020 Federal Tax Return and W-2 form(s)
- Additional supporting documents that you find applicable

STEP 6: CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURES

Certification Statement: Your signature on this document confirms your acknowledgment of the following:

- The information submitted for review is true and correct to the best of your knowledge.
- Providing false information on either my FAFSA or 2020 tax information may result in reduced eligibility, repayment of aid, or both.
- If there is conflicting information, additional documentation may be required upon request.
- I understand if any differences arise between my FAFSA and my 2020 federal tax information that the Financial Aid Offices will be required to correct my information, which may result in a change to my financial aid.
- If any paperwork is incomplete, then I understand this will delay the processing and disbursement of financial aid.
- I understand that I may accrue additional late fees if this form is not processed prior to payment deadlines.
- During peak seasons, there may be a 5-7 business day processing time for the request after all documents have been submitted.
- The decision will be emailed to your SCOTS email.

Student Signature: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________