

Davis Applied Technology College

Student Financial Aid – Dependency Status Review

Effective Date: 07/01/13

President's Council Approval: 4/7/2014
Revised: 1/8/2014

1. Purpose

To address students that do not meet the definition of independent who are unable to apply for Federal Financial Aid due to an unusual family situation.

2. References

Federal Student Aid Handbook – Student Eligibility
Federal Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

3. Policy

3.1 Students who establish themselves as independent on the FAFSA by virtue of claiming to be at risk for homelessness, an emancipated minor, in legal guardianship, or an orphan must provide documentation to the Financial Aid Office proving their claim.

3.2 Students who are unable to claim any of the items identified in 3.1 but who have an unusual family situation that makes it impossible to provide parents income information can request a Dependency Override. It is important to note that a parent's refusal to provide income information cannot, by federal law, be the reason a student is granted a dependency override.

4. Procedure

4.1 Students declaring they are independent by any of the items identified in 3.1 must provide third party documentation of their status. Students claiming to be at risk for homelessness can provide proof of a determination of homelessness or can provide third party evidence that they are fleeing an abusive parent. Students claiming to be any of the other categories should be able to provide legal documents (death certificates, court orders, etc.) to establish their status of independent.

4.2 Students requesting a dependency override as described in 4.2 must provide third party documentation of their circumstance. Third party documentation can include court documents, or statements from counselors or clergy. Statements from any person who could financially benefit from the students claim of independent will not be considered.