

2018-2019 Dependency Override Policy

Providing self-sufficiency and living on your own are not adequate reasons for changing the dependency status. However, if there is an unintentional, involuntary and uncontrollable break in the relationship between parents and student, Lake Superior State University may be able to consider the student *independent*. To make that determination we will need a detailed written explanation and supporting documentation.

A Financial Aid Officer will review your appeal based on the documentation submitted and notify you of the results. If you have submitted a signed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) *and* an override is granted, the Financial Aid Office will process your form electronically. If your appeal is not granted, your FAFSA will be returned to you with your denial letter. **Note:** Do not submit your FAFSA online. You must submit your FAFSA directly to the Financial Aid Office for processing with your completed appeal.

You are automatically considered to be *independent* and do not need to submit this form if any of the following apply when you complete the 2018-19 Free Application for Federal Student Aid:

- You were born before January 1, 1995.
- You are married or separated (but not divorced).
- You have any children who receive more than half of their support from you.
- You have dependents (other than children or spouse) who live with you and receive more than half of their support from you and will continue to receive that support during the 2018-19 school year.
- You are a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces or currently serving on active duty for purposes other than training.
- You will be enrolled in a master's degree **graduate program** in 2018-19.
- At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care or were you a dependent or ward of the court?
- Are you or were you an emancipated minor as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?
- Are you or were you in legal guardianship as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?
- At any time on or after July 1, 2017, did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless?

- At any time on or after July 1, 2017, did the director of any emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless?
- At any time on or after July 1, 2017, did the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk for being homeless?

Based on Federal Guidelines, the following circumstances are not usually approved or considered reasons for independent status:

- You do not reside with your parents; Your parents refuse to pay for your college education,
- Your parents are not financially able to pay for your college education, or
- You do not want your parents' assistance to pay for college.

If you have an unintentional or uncontrollable loss of parental relationship, you may submit a [Dependency Override Form](#) along with detailed documentation to the Financial Aid Office for review. The review process may take two to four weeks.