



North Idaho College

2016-2017 Petition for Independent Status

STUDENT INFORMATION

Social Security / Student ID Number: _____

Name: _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Who must provide parental information?

Federal financial aid regulations assume that the family has primary responsibility for meeting the educational costs of students. If you are considered a dependent student according to the financial aid definition, your aid eligibility is determined by using parent income and asset information in addition to your information. Dependent students are required by law to provide parental information and signatures to be considered for financial aid.

For Federal student aid programs, the North Idaho College Financial Aid Office follows the definition of an independent student as set by the Department of Education.

Under the federal definition, an undergraduate student is considered independent for 2016-2017 if they can answer “yes” to any of the following scenarios:

- were born before January 1, 1993.
- since turning age 13, was in foster care, a ward or dependent of the court and/or an orphan
- is a veteran of the United States Armed Forces or currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training.
- are married or separated.
- are providing significant financial support to dependents other than a spouse.
- is determined by a court in the state of legal residence as being an emancipated minor or in legal guardianship.
- was deemed to be a homeless unaccompanied youth or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless.



North Idaho College

Who may petition for independent status?

Federal regulations allow financial aid administrators to use professional judgment to change dependency status to "independent" on a case-by-case basis. ***The student must demonstrate that there is an unusual circumstance other than the fact that the student is self-sufficient or that the parents are unwilling to contribute to the student's education.*** If you do not meet any of the above criteria but you believe that you should be considered independent because truly exceptional circumstances make it inappropriate to expect a parental contribution, you may complete this form to petition for a waiver of federal regulations requiring parental information. Examples of unusual circumstances are situations such as when a student's parents cannot be located, or where an otherwise dependent student has been a victim of domestic violence or abuse and is no longer able to reside with their parents.

Please Note: The U.S. Department of Education has identified four conditions that, individually or in combination with one another, **do not** qualify as "unusual circumstances" and do not merit a dependency override. Those circumstances are:

- Parents refusing to contribute to the student's education;
- Parents unwilling to provide information on the application or for verification;
- Parents not claiming the students as a dependent for income tax purposes; and/or
- Student demonstrating total self-sufficiency.

Petition for Independent Status

In order to petition for independent status, please submit:

- A. The *Petition for Independent Status* form;
- B. Letter of petition; and
- C. Supporting documents to the North Idaho College Financial Aid Office.
- D. Letters of Support

Letter of Petition: *Form*

Financial Aid 2016-17 Petition for Independent Status

Student's Name _____ Last 4 of student's SSN _____

Student ID (if known) _____

Address _____ Telephone _____

E-Mail _____

The following information is used by our financial aid committee in reviewing a student's petition for independent status. Meeting all of the guidelines does not mean that a petition will be granted. The committee will decide on an individual basis whether to change a student's status to *independent*.



North Idaho College

1. Identify the location of both of your parents:

Mother/Parent 1 Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Are you in contact? _____ Yes _____ No

Father/Parent 2 Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Are you in contact? _____ Yes _____ No

2. Describe the last time you had contact with each of your parents - when, where, and the nature of the contact.

3. The intent of the federal regulations is that parent(s) contribute to undergraduate educational costs for all students younger than 24 years old. Please explain the extenuating circumstances that make it inappropriate to expect a parental contribution toward your educational expenses. You may attach additional pages and supporting documentation to the petition if necessary.



North Idaho College

Required Income Documentation

1. Complete the [Standard Verification Form](#) and submit copies of your 2015 IRS Tax Return Transcript and W2's.
2. Provide any documentation and/or explanation of how you supported yourself in 2015 and how you plan to support yourself for the upcoming year. Include any year-to-date paystubs.

Letters of Support

You must show that you have not been living with your parents and have not been claimed by your parents for the past two years. *Please provide documentation and/or statements from two sources who are aware of your situation and who know that you have not had any contact with your parents.*

1. Only one of the two statements may be from someone who is a relative or friend and they must be notarized.
2. The other must be from a third party professional (school counselors, teachers, clergy, attorneys, therapists, etc...). Copies of appropriate court documents are acceptable to support your petition.

I have attached statements from the following persons:

Name: _____ Relationship to you: _____

Job Title: _____ Employer: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Relationship to you: _____

Job Title: _____ Employer: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

I have read and understand the terms of petitioning for independent status. I have attached all required documentation outlined within this form and certify that the information in this petition is true and correct:

Student's Signature

Date

Financial Aid Office use only:

Approved: _____ Date: _____ Denied: _____ Date: _____

Comments: _____