

## 2012-2013 REQUEST FOR DEPENDENCY REVIEW

The federal aid definition of an independent student is one who can answer "YES" to any of these questions:

- Were you born **before** January 1, 1989?
- As of today, are you married?
- At the beginning of 12-13, will you be working on a master's degree or doctorate program?
- Are you currently serving on active duty in the US Armed Forces for purposes other than training?
- Are you a veteran of the US Armed Forces?
- Do you have children who will receive more than half of their support from you between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013?
- Do you have dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and receive more than half of their support from you, now and through June 30, 2013?
- 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, 2011, 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, 2011 did the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the US Dept of Housing and Urban Development determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless?
- At any time on or after July 1, 2011, 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 of being homeless?

Applicants who answer "No" to all of these questions are considered "dependent" for federal aid purposes and are required to provide parental information on the FAFSA to determine the financial strength of the family. If the financial strength is low, the student will most likely qualify for federal aid.

In some unusual circumstances, a student may make a compelling case showing that it is unhealthy or impossible to provide the information. Examples of unusual circumstances are: (a) parents reside in a location where mail delivery does not exist; (b) parent is mentally handicapped; or (c) student suffered documentable parental abuse and contact with the parent would put the student in danger.

The following are circumstances that **may not be considered** to change a student status from dependent to independent:

- \* The student has been supporting himself/herself for a time.
- \* The student has been supported by other relatives or friends for a time.
- \* The student does not live with his/her parents.
- \* The student is angry with the parents and wishes not to speak to them.
- \* The parents are able but unwilling to provide their information.
- \* The parents are living in another country.

**DIRECTIONS:** If you feel you document a compelling case of an unusual circumstance, complete the back and submit it to the receptionist along with the 2012-2013 FAFSA. If you have already mailed the FAFSA, submit this form alone.

