



DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE PETITION 2008 - 2009

Financial Aid & Scholarships Office, 231 W Sixth St, Powell, WY 82435 • 1-800-560-4692 or (307) 754-6158

The Higher Education Act of 1992 defines those students who are considered independent of parental support for educational costs. These rules are explained in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA Step Three). If you do not meet the definition of an independent student under these rules, but believe that you are truly independent, the Northwest College Financial Aid & Scholarships office may consider, under Professional Judgment, exceptional circumstances which would allow you to be considered “independent” for purposes of federal financial aid.

These circumstances are unique and are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Situations such as parental unwillingness to provide support, parents no longer claiming the student as a dependent on their federal tax return, and the maintenance of a separate residence by the student from parents are **not considered extenuating circumstances**.

The financial aid administrator may allow an override of dependency status on the FAFSA, if warranted, based upon unusual situations. Special circumstances that may be sufficient for consideration of an override include:

- Severe circumstances such as an abusive home situation, history of parental alcohol or drug abuse, abandonment by, both parents or incarceration of custodial parent.
- Death of a parent after filing the FAFSA and the surviving parent meets one of the conditions listed above.
- You are divorced, under 24 years of age and do not have children. You maintain a residence separate from your parents and pay all living expenses with your own income and assets. Please attach a copy of the divorce decree and receipts/documentation to show self-support.
- Other exceptional circumstances not described above.

You must provide documentation to the satisfaction of the financial aid administrator that you are truly self-supporting in order to obtain a dependency override.

****You must complete this process each year until you are considered “independent” by the U.S. Department of Education’s definition****

Any decision made by this office applies only to Northwest College.

Financial Aid & Scholarships Office
1.800.560.4692, ext.6158 or 307.754.6158
financialaid@northwestcollege.edu
www.northwestcollege.edu/financialaid/

OVER

DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE PETITION

Students Name _____ Last 4 digits of Social Security Number _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone/cell _____

I understand that I do not meet any of the regular rules for independent status, but my situation is such that I believe that I am an independent student. I understand that a **parent's unwillingness** to provide support or a **student's choice not to accept support**, are unacceptable reasons to make this request. (See the reverse of this form for more information on acceptable reasons.)

Remember: Neither a student's desire to be considered independent or a student's reliance on someone other than his/her parents for support constitute grounds for a dependency override.

YOU MUST:

- 1) Attach a written description of the unique circumstances which make you someone who should not be considered dependent on either of their parents.
- 2) Provide a complete history, for the last year, of where you have lived and document sources of income and support.
- 3) Attach to this form; two letters confirming your situation (from foster parents, social-worker, clergy, counselors, etc.).

The following people are providing letters:

Name

Title/Relationship

I understand this is a request and that it is subject to the professional judgment of the Financial Aid Office staff. This request may be subject to requests for further documentation, and any decision is final. Any decision made by this office applies only to Northwest College.

My signature below certifies that all the information provided is correct and true, and I understand that if I purposely give false or misleading information on this form to establish eligibility, I could receive a \$10,000 fine, a prison sentence, or both.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Northwest College does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or veteran status in its programs and activities. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer and Institution (EOE/EOI). Inquiries concerning Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, and ADA should be directed to the NWC Compliance Officer, Vice President for Administrative Services, 231 West Sixth Street, Powell, WY 82435-1895, 307.754.6404, or the Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Federal Building, 1244 Speer Blvd. #310, Denver, CO 80204-3582 – Telephone: 303.844.5695 FAX: 303.844.4303; TDD: 303.844.3417; E-mail: OCR_Denver@ed.gov.