

2011-2012 Professional Judgment Petition for Independent Student Status

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, Southern Crescent follows the definition of an independent student as set by the Federal Government. Under the definition, an undergraduate student is considered independent for 2011-2012 if he or she:

- is born before January 1, 1988.
- since turning age 13, was in foster care, a ward or dependent of the court and/or an orphan (both parents deceased).
- 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.
- is married or separated.
- is working on a master's or doctorate program 2011-2012.
- is 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.
- on or after July 1, 2009, was deemed to be a homeless unaccompanied youth or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless.

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 of truly exceptional circumstances making 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 his or her parents.

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
- Student demonstrating total self-sufficiency.



Financial Aid Office
501 Varsity Road
Griffin, GA 30024
770-228-7368 p
770-229-3029 f

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Please provide statements and a document from three appropriate authorizes who are aware of your situation and can corroborate the facts you present. Appropriate authorizes include, clergy, social worker/personnel, court official, teachers, high school counselors, and/or police officers. Only one of the three statements may be from someone who is a relative or friend. Copies of Police Reports, reports from the Department of Family and Children Services, and death certificates are some of the acceptable supporting documents. Letters must be typed, on official letterhead and have a signature.

Last Name _____ First Name _____ MI _____

Student ID _____ Last 4 digits of SSN _____ DOB _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Identify the location of both your parents.

Describe the last time you had contact with your parents (when, where, and nature of contact).

Explain why you cannot obtain parental information to complete your FAFSA.

Describe how you have been self-supporting*.

- a) When did you start meeting your expenses without parental support?
- b) What is the amount and source of your annual income (wages, monetary gifts, etc.)?
- c) If annual income (stated on line b) is \$6000 or less, please explain how you met living expenses.

*NOTE: If you are being financially supported by anyone other than yourself (i.e., grandparents or other relatives) please answer the following 2 questions.

- a) Describe the relationship and how you received this support.
- b) Identify type of support and approximate value.



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What amount of financial support have you received from your parents in the last year?

What other support do you receive from your parents (i.e., health or car insurance, room and board)?

Provide the following information about your expenses. If any amount is zero, explain the reason. Please attached signed copies of your federal income tax returns (including all schedules and W-2 forms) for 2010.

Monthly Living Expenses (2010)	Dollar Amount
Housing	
Food	
Utilities	
Transportation	
Personal (clothing, personal items, etc.)	
Other	
Total	

Explain any expenses with a zero dollar amount.

I certify that the information provided is true and correct.

 Student Signature _____
Date

Submit complete petition with ALL statements, letters and supporting documents attached to Southern Crescent Technical College Financial Aid Office, 501 Varsity Road, Griffin, GA 30223 or fax to 770-229-3029. Verification must be completed before the petition can be reviewed. Please allow up to 3 weeks from the time your petition and all supporting documents are submitted to receive your written response.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

FAO Initials _____ Date _____ Decision: Approved Denied

Comments: _____
