

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO
OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID
PETITION FOR INDEPENDENT STATUS
2007/2008
Part I

The US Congress and Department of Education determine the criteria for whether a student is considered dependent or independent of their parents for financial aid purposes. Generally, how an applicant responds to “Step Three” on the FAFSA determines dependency status.

The questions in “Step Three” are:

1. Were you born before January 1, 1984?
2. At the beginning of the 2007–2008 school year, will you be working on a master’s or doctorate program (such as an MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD, or graduate certificate, etc.)?
3. As of today, are you married? (Answer yes if you are separated, but not divorced.)
4. Do you have children who receive more than half of their support from you?
5. Do you have dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you, now and through June 30, 2008?
6. Are (a) both of your parents deceased, or (b) are you (or were you until age 18) a ward/dependent of the court?
7. Are you currently serving on active duty in the US Armed Forces for purposes other than training?
8. Are you a veteran of the US Armed Forces?

If you do not meet one of the above conditions, but feel there are extenuating circumstances which warrant your being considered independent of your parents, you may explain those circumstances in a petition to your Financial Aid Officer.

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE COMPLETING THIS FORM

The basic premise underlying student financial aid is that it is primarily the responsibility of the student and his or her family to pay educational costs. When family resources are insufficient, financial aid may be awarded to supplement the resources of the student’s family to help pay educational expenses. By petitioning, you are asking us to relieve your parents of the responsibility for using their resources to pay part of your college costs. Only very extenuating circumstances will make it reasonable to approve such a petition.

The federal government has identified four conditions that, individually or in combination with one another, do not qualify as “extenuating circumstances”, and do not merit a dependency override. Those circumstances are:

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

For your petition to be considered, you must not have been claimed as a tax exemption by any parent or stepparent in 2006. Your parent(s)/stepparent(s) may not have used you as the basis to file income taxes as “head of household,” and you may not have lived with your parent(s)/stepparent(s) during 2006 or 2007.

Note: Submission of the FAFSA to the US Department of Education is for the purpose of determining what level of contribution is expected from the family. For low-income families, this contribution is often zero or minimal, and a change in dependency status may decrease the student's eligibility for financial aid.

To begin the petition process, please answer the questions listed on the reverse side of this form. Then submit this form, **WITH YOUR PETITION STATEMENT ATTACHED**, to the Student Financial Aid Office.

1.

What amount of financial support did you receive from your parents in 2006? \$	What amount of financial support will you receive from your parents in 2007? \$
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2.

What other support do you receive from your parent(s) or stepparent(s)? Examples: health or auto insurance, room and board, clothing, use of a vehicle, etc. Please identify the type of support and its approximate value:	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
Total	\$

3.

Do your parents/stepparents own the property in which you reside? (circle)	Yes	No
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Prior to making a final decision regarding your petition, your Financial Aid Officer may request that you submit additional information, including copies of federal income tax returns for both you and your parents or stepparents.

I hereby certify that the information I have provided is true and correct.

Warning: If you purposely give false or misleading information on this application, you may be fined, be sentenced to jail, or both.

Applicant's Printed Name	Applicant's Signature
Applicant's UNM ID	Applicant's Telephone No.
Applicant's E-mail Address	Date Signed

Your explanation of extenuating circumstances must be attached to this petition!

The University of New Mexico is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action institution. Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you require this information in alternative format or have special needs, please contact the Office of Student Financial Aid for assistance.