

Independent Appeal 2025 – 2026



Financial Aid Office
1700 SW College • Topeka, KS 66621
(785) 670-1151 • (785) 670-1079 fax
washburn.edu/financial-aid • financialaid@washburn.edu

Student Name

Washburn ID

Student Phone Number

Dependency status determines whose information must be provided on the FAFSA – student and parent (dependent) OR just student and/or spouse, if married (independent). Students are only considered to be independent if they meet certain criteria, as established by federal regulations.

More information regarding dependency status and criteria can be found at <https://studentaid.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/dependency>.

If you do not meet independent status criteria, but believe you have unusual circumstances, you may submit an independent appeal for review. Appeals for independent status are reviewed on a case-by-case basis and are only granted for unusual, documented circumstances, such as the following.

Check the box that applies.

- Left home due to an abusive or threatening environment
- Are abandoned or estranged from your parents and have not been adopted
- Have refugee or asylum status and are separated from your parents or your parents are displaced in a foreign country
- Are a victim of human trafficking
- Are incarcerated or your parents are incarcerated and contact with your parents would pose a risk to you
- Are otherwise unable to contact or locate your parents and have not been adopted
- Other (please list) _____

If you believe you have an unusual circumstance that may qualify for an independent appeal, complete steps 1 and 2.

1. Submit a signed personal letter of appeal to the Financial Aid Office, indicating why you should be considered independent for financial aid purposes.

2. Submit supporting documentation

You may provide either written documentation from a third-party aware of your situation, or request that we conduct a verbal interview with you or a third-party individual.

Some examples of supporting documents may include:

- Court order or official Federal or State documentation that your parents or legal guardians are incarcerated
- Written statement from an attorney, guardian ad litem, court appointed special advocate (CASA), or a representative of TRIO or GEAR UP that confirms the circumstances and the person's relationship to you
- Written statement from a state, county, or Tribal welfare agency that confirms the circumstances
- Written statement from an independent living case worker who supports current and former foster youth with the transition to adulthood
- Written statement from a public or private agency, facility, or program servicing the victims of abuse, neglect, assault, or violence
- Other

If you would like to request a documented phone call or interview with you or an individual from one of the agencies listed above, provide the following information:

Name of individual: _____

Phone Number: _____

Agency Name: _____

Relationship to you: _____

Certification and Signature

By signing this worksheet, you certify that all of the information reported on it is complete and correct.

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

Student's Signature

Date