



Office of Student Financial Aid & Scholarships
Independent Status Appeal Form 2023-2024

Students classified as dependent may petition to be reclassified as an independent student based upon documented extenuating family circumstances. Examples of extenuating circumstances include estrangement from parents, an unsafe home environment, or unknown whereabouts of your parents. Extenuating family circumstances do not include financial hardship, a parent's unwillingness to provide financial support or self-sufficiency (living on your own). Documentation is required to support your request.

Deadline to submit application: March 1st, 2024. Excluding peak periods, the estimated timeframe for a review is 2 to 4 weeks.

PLEASE PRINT

Form with fields for Student Last Name, First Name, MI, ID, Street, City, State, Zip, E-Mail Address, and Telephone Number.

SECTION A: New Independent Appeal

I am submitting the Independent Appeal Form and documentation for initial consideration during the 2023-2024 academic year.

Please provide the following information. (Please provide a detailed explanation of your circumstance.)

- Provide the whereabouts of your biological parents.
Describe the last time you had contact with each of your parents: when, where and the nature of the contact.
Explain why you cannot obtain parental information.
Provide statements from three adults who are aware of your situation and can corroborate the information that you provide. Two of the three statements may come from the following:

- Teacher/Professor
Guidance Counselor
Social Worker
Court/Public Agency
Other
Attorney
Psychiatrist/Health Personal
Clergy
Family/Friend

\*\* ALL STATEMENTS MUST INCLUDE NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, RELATIONSHIP TO THE STUDENT AND A SIGNATURE\*\*

- Provide a copy of your 2022 Federal Tax Transcript or signed Tax Return (if you did not complete the IRS data retrieval) and copies of your W-2, or verification of your income
Verification of your current living arrangements (See page 2).



SECTION B: RENEWAL Independent Appeal

Please check one of the following boxes:

My Independent Appeal was approved in a prior academic year. However, Federal Regulations require me to submit a statement verifying that the documented adverse family circumstances still exist. Please provide the following:

A letter from at least two individuals and yourself stating your current relationship with your natural parents for the last 12 months. The statements must come from one of the following:

- Teacher/Professor, Guidance Counselor, Social Worker, Court/Public Agency, Other, Attorney, Psychiatrist/Health Personal, Clergy, Family/Friend

\*\* ALL STATEMENTS MUST INCLUDE NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, RELATIONSHIP TO THE STUDENT AND A SIGNATURE\*\*

Provide a copy of your 2022 Federal Tax Transcript or signed Tax Return (if you did not complete the IRS data retrieval) and copies of your W-2, or verification of your income.

\*\* I understand approval in a prior academic year does not guarantee approval for the current academic year.\*\*

Section B: Explanation of your circumstance

Please explain in detail the extenuating family circumstances that you believe warrant review of your dependency status. If additional space is needed, please attach a separate sheet. Do not leave this section blank.

Blank lines for writing explanation of circumstances.

Section C: Verification of Current Living Arrangements

Where did you live in 2022? State On Campus Off Campus with Parent

Where did you live in 2023? State On Campus Off Campus with Parent

Circumstances that DO Not Warrant an approval for an Independent Appeal

- Parents refuse to contribute to educational costs
Parents unwilling to provide information on FAFSA or for the verification process
Parents did not claim the student as a dependent for information for income tax purposes
Parents income too high to qualify for need-based aid
Student demonstrated total self-sufficiency.



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**Student Certification – Read carefully before you sign.**

I hereby certify that all information contain in this document, including the documentation is true and complete. I affirm that I have not knowingly provided any false statements or fraudulent documentation. I understand that if I am found to have knowingly or intentionally given false or fraudulent statements and/or documentation, my eligibility for Federal and State student aid may be jeopardized.

I understand that if I **DO NOT** provide supporting documentation, no further action will be taken on this request by the Office of Student Financial Aid.

**Note:** Federal regulations stipulate that evidence of fraud must be reported to the U.S. Department of Education for possible investigation by the Office of the Inspector General and possible prosecution by the United States Attorney General's Office.

**NOTE: You are required to provide all documentation to support your request. Failure to submit documentation may result in your request automatically being denied.**

*Print Name:* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ *ID*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Student*

**Mail to:**

Saint Augustine's University  
Office of Student Financial Aid & Scholarships  
1315 Oakwood Ave  
Raleigh, NC 27610  
919-516-4000