

2009-2010 Dependency Overrides

The Financial Aid Office at ETSU asks that you submit the following information to The Financial Aid Appeal Committee when requesting a dependency override:

1. Statement from student explaining why he/she has had no contact with both parents and no support for a lengthy period of time.
2. Written verification, on letterhead, from at least two professional sources, i.e. school counselor, pastor, social worker, etc., explaining lack of contact and support.
3. Verification from at least one family member or close contact of family explaining lack of contact and support.
4. Copies of any legal records pertaining to lack of contact.
5. Copy of student's tax return and W2 forms from 2008.
6. Documentation of any untaxed income the student will receive for 2009.
7. Copy of student's lease agreement for housing.
8. Copies of at least 3 bills paid by student including car insurance and car payment.
9. FAFSA form completed by student (if FAFSA was not already completed online).

Federal government guidelines that we follow in regards to dependency overrides:

The Department of Education's Application and Verification Guide has identified four conditions that, individually or in combination with one another, do not qualify as "unusual circumstances" or that 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 students as a dependent for income tax purposes.
4. Student demonstrating total self-sufficiency.

The law requires that a determination of unusual circumstances must be made each award year. A determination of independence in one award year does not automatically mean a student would be deemed independent in another year. Also, a dependency override at one school may not automatically warrant independence at another school.

Students should be aware that a school is not required to perform dependency overrides, and if the financial aid administrator determines that an override is not appropriate, the decision cannot be appealed to the U.S. Department of Education.

Review of Your Information

We will complete a review of your information once all documentation has been received. **Please make sure that the information has your name, EID#, address and a phone number where you can be reached incase we have further questions.**