Office Use Only
DEPOVR

2017-2018 Dependency Override-Instructions

Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships
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INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

The U. S. Congress and the Department of Education determine the criteria for whether a student is considered dependent or independent of his/her parents for financial aid purposes. Generally, how the applicant responds to the questions on Step 3 of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) determines a student's dependency status. If you were unable to answer "yes" to any of the questions on Step 3 of the FAFSA, but feel there are extenuating circumstances which might warrant you being considered independent of your parents, you must explain those circumstances in a petition to your Financial Aid Advisor.

Note: Parental information is legal parents, biological and/or adoptive parents. Parental information is **not** derived from foster parents, legal guardians, aunts and uncles, older siblings or grandparents. Having sufficient resources to pay your own expenses is **NOT** considered an extenuating circumstance for determining dependency status.

Examples of eligible circumstances include:
Abandonment by parent; Abusive family environment; Unknown whereabouts of parents

Examples of non-eligible circumstances include:
Financial hardship; Parents' desire NOT to provide financial support to the student; a student's ability to be self-sufficient

DIRECTIONS/CHECKLIST:

Please complete all questions on the Petition for Independent Status form.

☐ 1. At least **three (3)** letters of reference must be included with the Petition for Independent Status Form.

- ☐ **Two (2)** Professional reference letters can include clergy, counselors, teachers, lawyers, etc.
  Professional reference letter must be on **letterhead and **signed**.*
- ☐ **One (1)** Personal reference letter can include family, close relatives you are not living with or employer.
  If submitting a letter from an employer, it must be on **letterhead and **signed**.*

☐ 2. Complete, Sign, and Return the Petition for Independent Status form and all documents to our office. Please ensure all documents include your name and campus wide identification number.

A Petition for Independent Status will need to be completed each year you are attending A&M-Commerce as long as you do not meet the federal definition of an independent student.