



DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE REQUEST 2025-2026

Financial Aid Office

1964 Prairie Dell Road, Union, MO 63084

Phone: 636-584-6588 Email: financialaid@eastcentral.edu

The regulation governing federal student aid programs is based on the premise that your family has the primary responsibility to pay for your education. There are specific criteria for determining whether you are a dependent or independent student when determining eligibility for financial aid. ***Not living with parents or not being claimed by them on tax forms does not make you an independent student for purposes of federal student aid.***

Based on your answers to the Personal Circumstance questions on the FAFSA, you are considered a dependent student and must include parental information to get a full picture of your family's financial resources.

If you have an unusual and extenuating circumstance that prevents you from contacting your parents or obtaining their information, you may request a dependency override. You must be able to explain and document your unusual circumstances.

Unusual circumstances may include, but are not limited to:

- Abusive or unsafe family environment
- Parental abandonment or estrangement
- Incarceration or institutionalization of both parents
- Death of custodial parent and abandonment by another natural parent

Circumstances that **would not** be considered for a dependency override include:

- Parents refuse to contribute to your education
- Parents are unwilling to provide information on the FAFSA or for verification
- Parents do not claim you as a dependent for income tax purposes
- Student demonstrates total self-sufficiency

For our office to consider your request, please complete this form and provide the following:

1. Personal statement explaining your circumstances. Provide as much detail as possible describing your separation from your parents.
2. Signed and dated letter on official letterhead from at least one adult professional who can attest to your situation. This may include a school official, counselor, social worker, case manager, teacher, clergy, lawyer, judge, or physician.
3. Relevant supporting documentation you would like to submit to support your request, such as police reports, court orders, records of court proceedings, death certificates, etc.

Requests with incomplete documentation will not be considered. If your request is approved, our office will update your FAFSA and notify you of the results via your ECC email within 30 days of receiving your request and all required documentation.

Once an initial approval is made, it will carry forward to future award years at East Central College as long as your circumstances remain unchanged.



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REQUEST
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Student Name _____

Student ID # _____

Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____

Phone Number (____) ____ - ____

Personal Statement:

Provide a detailed explanation of your unusual circumstances below, including why you are unable to provide parental information on the FAFSA, when you last had contact with your parent(s), why you no longer have contact with your parent(s), where you have been living and how you are supporting yourself.

Signature

Date

updated 05/2025