

UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCE APPEAL

ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024

DIRECTIONS

If you do not meet the definition of an Independent student, but you believe you have unusual circumstances beyond what the federally mandated formula can consider, you may file an appeal. A committee of financial aid administrators will examine the documentation supporting your appeal and will either approve or deny your request. You will be notified in writing of the committee's decision within sixty days. Examples of unusual circumstances include: victims of human trafficking, students with refugee status, parental abandonment/unable to contact parent or contact with parent poses documented risk to student.

Please type or print legibly in blue or black ink.

Send Completed Form To:

University of Rhode Island
Enrollment Services Green Hall
6 Rhody Ram Way
Kingston, RI 02881 USA

Phone: (401) 874-9500

Fax: (401) 874-2002

Email: esmail@etal.uri.edu

Website: web.uri.edu/enrollment

SECTION A. Student Information		
Student name (Last, first, MI)	Social Security number	University ID number
Address (street or P.O. box, apartment number, city, state, ZIP)		Phone number (include area code)
SECTION B. Independent status definition		
<p>The federally-mandated formula used to determine your financial need is based on the premise that your family has the primary responsibility to pay for your higher education. The federal government has specific standards to determine who has dependent status (you must include parental information on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid [FAFSA]) and who has independent status and is not required to give parental information when applying for financial aid.</p> <p>To have independent status, you must meet at least one of the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You were born before January 1, 2000. • You are married. Also answer yes if you are separated but not divorced. • You are enrolled in a graduate or professional degree program. • You currently serve on active duty in the armed services for purposes other than training. • You are a veteran of the United States Armed Services. • You have children or other dependents who receive more than half of their support from you, now and through June 30, 2024 • When you were age 13 or older, both your parents were deceased, you were in foster care, or you were a ward of the court. • As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, you are/were an emancipated minor. • Someone other than your parent or stepparent has legal guardianship of you as determined by a court in your state of legal residence. • You were determined to be an unaccompanied homeless youth by your high school district liaison or the director of an emergency shelter program on or after July 1, 2022. • You were determined to be an unaccompanied homeless youth at risk of being homeless by the director of a runaway or homeless center/shelter on or after July 1, 2022. 		
SECTION C. Appeal procedures for unusual circumstances		
<p>Exceptions to the federal dependency definition may be made on a case-by-case basis. If you do not meet any of the conditions for independent status set forth above, you may appeal your status if you believe you have unusual circumstances. Be aware that parental disagreements and refusal of the parent or stepparent to provide support or information are not considered unusual circumstances for the purpose of achieving independent status for financial aid. Being self-supporting, in and of itself, is not sufficient reason for independent status. If you feel you have unusual circumstances that would allow you to receive financial aid as an independent student, please follow these steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete your FAFSA on the Web – www.studentaid.gov 2. A personal letter describing your unusual circumstances 3. Third party documentation supporting the unusual circumstances you described – Examples of adequate documentation include: court documents or a letter on letterhead from a high school counselor, case worker, social worker, clergy, or other professional who confirms that your situation warrants independent status. 4. 2021 IRS tax return transcript or IRS documentation of nonfiling status 		