Appeal for Review of Dependency Status
2015-2016

The Financial Aid Office at Grand Valley may consider a student independent only in unusual circumstances. If your situation is different from the three outlined below, please attach a separate sheet explaining your circumstances along with supporting documentation.

If you have questions about the completion of this form, call or email the GVSU Financial Aid Office. Attach the requested documentation and return it with this form to the Financial Aid Office, Grand Valley State University, 1 Campus Dr., Allendale, MI 49401. You may also fax your completed form to our office at: (616) 331-3180 or e-mail to: finaid@gvsu.edu. Please allow 1-2 weeks for processing. Please print clearly.

Student Name: ___________________________________ Student ID Number: G ________________________
Phone Number: ___________________________________ E-mail: ___________________________________

The following are situations that would NOT commonly be acceptable reasons for the Grand Valley Financial Aid Office to grant a student self-supporting status:

1. Student is living at home (or with relatives) but paying rent.
2. Student has ongoing arguments with parents’ and due to this the parents have refused to help student.
3. Student has chosen to leave parents and put him/herself through college.
4. Parents have chosen not to provide help with the student's college expenses OR provide financial information.
5. Student lives with, or has a step-parent who refuses to provide support.

Please CHECK ONE of the following circumstances and provide the information requested:

□ Circumstance #1: You come from an unusual family situation. The dysfunction is a result of physical or emotional abuse, drug or alcohol abuse or other untenable situations that make it impossible for you to live with and be supported by your parent(s).

   1. Attach signed copies of your parent’s federal tax returns for the past two years. If you are unable to get copies of these returns, please explain in a written statement.

   2. Attach a signed statement from EACH of the following three individuals providing an explanation of the situation. Also attach any other documentation from police or court records.

      • Statement from you.
      • Statement on letterhead from a professional person outside of GVSU familiar with the situation. Examples include a counselor/therapist, minister, social worker, high school teacher or physician. Please note: Statements from the GVSU Counseling Center are encouraged but generally do not meet the requirements of having first-hand knowledge of the situation.
      • Statement from a friend or family member.
Circumstance #2: Your custodial parent has died and you have no contact with the other birth parent.

1. Attach death certificate of the deceased birth parent.
2. Attach a letter from an objective third party which supports your claim that you have not had any significant relationship with the other birth parent.

Circumstance #3: You are a self-supporting student and were at risk of being homeless after July 1, 2014.

1. Attach a written statement explaining your situation
2. Attach supporting documentation dated on or after July 1, 2014 from the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development that determined you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless.

Please answer the following questions regarding your assets:

$ __________ As of today, what is your total current balance of cash, savings, and checking accounts?

As of today, what is the net worth of your investments, including real estate? Don't include the home in which you live. Net worth means current value minus debt.

$ __________ Visit www.fafsa.ed.gov/help.htm for a list of investments that must be reported.

$ __________ As of today, what is the net worth of your current businesses and/or investment farms? Don't include a family farm or family business with 100 or fewer full-time or full-time equivalent employees. Visit www.fafsa.ed.gov/help.htm for additional information.

By signing this worksheet, I certify that all of the information reported to qualify for federal student aid is complete and correct.

Student Signature: _______________________________ Date: ___________________________