
2022-2023 Appeal for Review of Dependency Status

The Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships at Grand Valley may consider a student independent only in unusual circumstances. If your situation is different from what is outlined below, please submit a signed letter explaining your circumstances along with the supporting documentation requested below. **Please allow 1-2 weeks for processing.**

Student Name: _____ Student ID Number: G_____

Please CHECK ONE of the following circumstances and submit the documentation 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).

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

1. Signed letter from you.
2. Signed letter from a friend or family member familiar with the situation.
3. Signed letter on letterhead from a professional (or third party) person outside of GVSU familiar with the situation. Examples include a counselor/therapist, minister, social worker, high school teacher or physician.
Please note: letters from the GVSU Counseling Center do not meet the requirements of having first-hand knowledge of the situation.

Circumstance #2: Your custodial parent has died, and you have no contact with your other birth parent.

1. Attach the death certificate of your deceased birth parent.
2. Attach a signed letter from yourself explaining your relationship status with your living birth parent.
3. Attach a letter from an objective third party (someone who is not a friend or family member) which supports your claim that you have not had any significant relationship with the other birth parent.

*Note: the following circumstances, singly or in combination, **do not qualify** for independent status:

- Parents refuse to contribute to the student's education.
- Parents will not provide information for the FAFSA or verification.
- Parents do not claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes.
- You are financially self-sufficient.

By signing this worksheet, I certify that all of the information reported to qualify for federal student aid is complete and correct. I further understand that purposely giving false or misleading information may result in a fine, jail terms, or both.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return your completed form to the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships by email (finaid@gvsu.edu), fax (616-331-3180), U.S. mail, or in person. Be sure to include your name and G Number on all pages. Missing information may delay processing.