



**University of the Incarnate Word**  
**Office of Financial Assistance**  
**Student Dependency Status**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ UIW ID \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions**

The Office of Financial Assistance must verify your request for special conditions as an independent student. You have indicated on your FAFSA that you may qualify for one of the following conditions. Please complete the information below along with any required documentation.

**Step 1: Independent Status Eligibility**

*Check the reason for the status that applies to you and attach the required documentation*

- Currently serving on active duty in the U.S Armed Forces for purposes other than training**
  - Acceptable Documentation
    - Provide copy of full and complete current orders or SCRA verification
    - National Guardsman or reservist can obtain a letter from a superior officer that documents the call-up to active duty and classifies service as anything but “dishonorable”
- Veteran of the U.S Armed Forces**
  - Provide a copy of your DD-214
- At any time since age 13, both parents were deceased**
  - Copy of both parent’s death certificates and your birth certificate. If one parent is deceased and the other parent’s whereabouts are unknown, please review the Request for Independent Status Form.
- At any time since age 13, you were in foster care**
  - Copy of official documentation from the court confirming your status in Foster Care
- At any time since age 13, you were a ward of the court**
  - Copy of official documentation from the court confirming your status as a ward of the court.
- You are or were an emancipated minor prior to the age of 18**
  - Attach a letter from your social worker confirming that you were a dependent of the court, or a letter stating that you are a participant in the Living Skills Program (ILSP), or other court documentation showing that you were removed from your home because it posed a direct threat to your well-being
- You are/were in legal guardianship**
  - Attach an official copy of a court’s decision that you are or were in legal guardianship.
- After July 1, 2020 you received the determination that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless, or self-supporting and at risk of homelessness (e.g. McKinney-Vento)**
  - Copy of a signed letter on official letterhead from any of the sources below:
    - High School District Liaison, Director of an Emergency Shelter or Transitional living program, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Director of a runaway or youth basic center for transitional living program, Social Workers, or Clergy
- You are self-supporting and at risk of homelessness**
  - Follow the instructions located in the Request for Independent Status Form

You are considered dependent if none of the categories above apply to you. You must provide parental information along with parental signatures on the FAFSA. You may complete the Request for Independent Status Form if you feel you are independent due to extenuating circumstances.

**Step 3: Student Certification**

By signing below, I certify that all the information and documentation on this form is true, complete, and accurate. I understand that providing any false statement or misrepresentation will be cause for denial or repayment of financial aid.

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_