

**CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY**  
**APPEAL FOR INDEPENDENT STUDENT STATUS 2009-10**

STUDENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_ STUDENT net ID \_\_\_\_\_

PERMANENT ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_@creighton.edu

The US Department of Education defines independent students as being able to answer "yes" to one or more of the following questions:

- Were you born before January 1, 1986?
- At the beginning of the 2009-10 school year, will you be working on a master's or doctoral program?
- As of today, are you married? "As of today" refers to the date that you sign your FAFSA.
- Do you have children who will receive more than half of their support from you between 7/01/09 – 6/30/10?
- Do you have dependents other than your children/spouse who live with you and who will receive more than half of their support from you, now and through June 30, 2010?
- Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training?
- Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?
- At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care or were you a dependent/ward of the court?
- Are you or were you an emancipated minor or in legal guardianship as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?
- Are you homeless or at risk of being homeless as determined by the director of a HUD approved shelter, transitional program or high school liason?

**Please read the 2009-10 FAFSA questions #48-60 for more details on independent status requirements.**

If you do not qualify as independent under the above guidelines, yet feel you are, in fact, "independent," you may appeal to the Creighton University Financial Aid Office. A Financial Aid Administrator may, in some cases, agree that you should be considered independent if exceptional family circumstances exist and are documented. Examples of exceptional family circumstances include abuse, abandonment, broken parent/child relationships, etc. Note that parental refusal to provide support or the choice of a student not to accept parental support are not considered exceptional family circumstances.

If you feel you have exceptional family circumstances and wish to be considered for independent status, provide the following documentation to the Creighton University Financial Aid Office:

- A written description of why you consider yourself independent. Provide a complete history of where you have been living and your source(s) of income for the past two years. Provide copies of your parents' tax returns for those same two years. Enclose copies of one month's bills/expenses and documentation showing payment of those expenses.
- Three other supporting letters from individuals familiar with your family situation. (These might include foster parent, priest/minister, social worker, counselor, etc.) **Letters from parents are not acceptable.**

I understand this request is subject to the professional judgment of the Financial Aid Office Staff and their decision is final. I may be asked to provide further documentation to support this request. I also understand that if I purposely give false information, I may receive penalties which include a fine and / or imprisonment, in accordance with federal regulations.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form and supporting documentation to:

CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID 2500 CALIFORNIA PLAZA OMAHA, NE 68178-0062
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