

Student Name _____ NET ID _____

The US Department of Education defines an independent student as a person who meets any of the following conditions:

- was born before January 1, 1999
- is married
- will be working on a master's or doctorate program (e.g., MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD, graduate certificate)
- is serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces
- is a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces
- has children and provides more than half of their support
- since age 13, both parents were deceased
- has dependents (other than children or my spouse) who live with me and provides more than half of their support
- was in foster care since turning age 13
- was a dependent or ward of the court since turning age 13
- is currently or was in legal guardianship
- is currently or was an emancipated minor
- is an unaccompanied youth who is homeless or is self-supporting and at risk of being homeless

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. Feel free to provide additional information/documentation that you feel is applicable.
- 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 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.

Student Signature

Date