Creighton
UNIVERSITY

Enrollment Management
Office of Financial Aid

2027-2028 Appeal for Independent Student Status

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, 2004
- 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 guidelines above, but you have extenuating circumstances that would make you independent, you may appeal to the Creighton University Financial Aid Office. Examples of extenuating family circumstances could include situations of abuse, abandonment, broken parent/child relationships, etc. Please note that parents refusing to provide support or documentation, or students living on their own and being self-sufficient are not alone considered extenuating circumstances.

If you feel you have extenuating 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, outlining any extenuating circumstances
- Provide a complete history of your living arrangements for the past **two years**
  - Rent/mortgage contract
  - Source of income
  - Copies of your taxes and your parents' taxes for the last two years
  - Copies of paid utility bills and expenses for the last two months
- Three 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