



## Request for Dependency Change

Student Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Oregon Tech ID #: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

The Higher Education Act specifies in law exact federal requirements that a student must meet to qualify for financial aid as an Independent Student. If you do not meet one of the criteria, you will be evaluated as a Dependent Student, meaning that your parents must provide FAFSA information. There may be special circumstances, however, which warrant a change in your dependency status.

The Oregon Tech Office of Financial Aid may be able to use professional judgment in deciding to override the dependency status on your FAFSA. You will be required to document your specific extenuating circumstances.

Examples of extenuating circumstance include but are not limited to:

- You and you parents are in separate countries and you have been granted refugee status by the Immigration Service
- A legal restraining order has been issued to your parent(s) due to abusive behavior or other family disturbances
- You have been abandoned and are dependent upon yourself or foster parents for support

The intent of dependency status changes is to allow for situations where parents are not just unwilling to provide the information. The fact that you have or have not been supporting yourself is not reason, in itself.

### Instructions:

If you have an exceptional circumstance and would like to appeal your dependency status, you may submit this appeal form along with the required supplemental documentation.

1. Sign this request form and use it as your cover sheet
2. Attach a separate document answering the questions below
3. Attach a copy of your most recent federal tax return
4. Provide letters from two professionals who are familiar with your situation. (i.e. from a government agency, clergy, high school counselor, or other qualified professional.) These letters must describe why your parents cannot provide information for your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Your request will not be considered without these statements.

### Questions:

Please thoroughly answer these questions in a separate document and attach it to this form:

1. Identify the location of both of your parents
2. Describe the last time you had contact with each of your parents (When, where and the nature of the contact)
3. Explain why you cannot obtain parental information
4. Describe how you have been self-supporting. When did you start supporting yourself? How have you provided for yourself?
5. Provide any other documentation/information relevant to your request.

I certify that the attached information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that this information will be used to determine my eligibility for federal student aid and as such carries the same penalties for misrepresentation and fraud as my Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

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