

2026-2027 Dependency Override Appeal

STUDENT INFORMATION

Student Name: _____ Last 4 digits SSN:: _____
(First M.I. Last)

Date Of Birth _____ Student Phone Number _____

If you have unusual circumstances that prevent you from contacting your parents or if doing so could pose a risk to you, you may be eligible for to be considered for a dependency override. The Financial Aid Office at Sumner College may override dependency status on a case-by-case basis for students with unusual circumstances. If approved, this means your parent information would not be required to determine your federal aid eligibility.

Please review all of the information below to determine whether you are eligible to appeal. Please submit the completed appeal and any supporting documentation to the Office of Financial Aid. Submission of this appeal does not guarantee a change of dependency status or an increase to your award. Appeals are reviewed regularly and you will be notified of the result by a Financial Aid Officer. Please allow up to two weeks for review of your Dependency Override Appeal.

Only one appeal may be submitted per award year

ELIGIBILITY FOR DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE

Unusual circumstances DO include:

- You left home due to an abusive or threatening environment;
- You are abandoned by or estranged from your parents;
- You have refugee or asylee status and are separated from your parents, or your parents are displaced in a foreign country;
- You are a victim of human trafficking;
- You are incarcerated, or your parents are incarcerated, and contact with your parents would pose a risk to you; or
- You are otherwise unable to contact or locate your parents

Unusual circumstances DO NOT include:

- Parents refuse to contribute to your education
- Parents are unwilling to provide information on the FAFSA or for verification
- Parents do not claim you as a dependent for income tax purposes
- You demonstrate total self-sufficiency

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

If your situation involves an unusual circumstance such as those described above, you may appeal your dependency status by submitting the following documentation (**ALL DOCUMENTS REQUIRED**):

- A typed personal letter** of explanation describing your unusual circumstance as related to BOTH parents and identifying your current means of support.
- Third party documentation** - Supporting statement from a third-party professional - The statement should speak to the individual's knowledge of your relationship your parent(s) as well as summarize your unusual circumstance. It must be signed, dated and should be on official letterhead. If letterhead is not obtainable, the person's name, title, phone number, business/organization name and address must be included. Examples of third party professionals include social workers, mental or medical health professionals, and members of clergy, school guidance counselors, coaches or teachers.
- Objective Party documentation** - Supporting statement from an objective party- This dated and signed statement in support of your appeal should be from someone who has first-hand knowledge of your situation and the nature of your relationship with your parent(s). Examples of an objective party include an adult relative or neighbor, parent of a friend, employer or supervisor.

I certify that all information reported in this appeal and accompanying documentation is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and ability. I understand that any false statement or misrepresentation may be cause for reduction and/or repayment of federal, state or institutional financial aid. I also agree to provide additional documentation of the information provided, if requested by The Financial Aid Office.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____