



Kaskaskia College

Financial Aid Office

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2026-2027 Dependency Override Appeal

Federal financial aid regulations assume that a student's family has primary responsibility for meeting educational costs. If you are considered a dependent student according to the federal financial aid definition, your aid eligibility is determined by using parent income and asset information in addition to your information.

What makes a student Dependent or Independent?

Your student dependency status is determined by the U.S. Department of Education based on your responses to specific questions on the FAFSA. For financial aid purposes, federal regulations have defined an independent student as one who meets **AT LEAST ONE** of the following conditions:

- Born before January 1, 2003
- Married as of the date FAFSA was submitted
- Have children who receive **more than half of their support** from the student, OR has legal dependents, other than a spouse or children, who live with the student and receive **more than half of their support** from the student
- Attending graduate level program of study during the 2026-2027 academic year
- Veteran of U.S. Armed Forces (or will be a veteran as of June 30, 2027), or have attended a service academy and were released under a condition other than dishonorable
- Currently serving on active duty in U.S. Armed Forces (other than for training)
- Emancipated minor or in legal guardianship as determined by the court in his/her state of legal residence
- Ward of the court, in foster care, or both parents were deceased since turning age 13
- A self-supporting unaccompanied youth between the ages of 22-24 who is homeless or at risk of being homeless

A student who does not meet **ANY** of the above conditions is classified as a Dependent student.

What is a Dependency Override?

A dependency override occurs when a financial aid administrator exercises professional judgment and overrides the Department of Education's criteria for dependent students. An override may only be granted on a case-by-case basis for students with unusual & exceptional circumstances. These circumstances must show compelling reason for a student to be considered independent rather than dependent.

What conditions COULD warrant a Dependency Override?

The following are some examples of conditions that could warrant a dependency override:

- Documented abandonment
- Parental drug abuse
- Parental mental capacity
- Physical or emotional abuse
- Severe estrangement from parents
- Parental incarceration

What conditions DO NOT warrant a Dependency Override?

- Parents refuse to provide information on the FAFSA application or for verification
- Parents do not claim student as a dependent for income tax purposes
- Parents unwilling or unable to contribute to student's education
- Student demonstrates self-sufficiency
- Student reluctant to request income information from parents
- Student does not wish to communicate with parents

Financial Aid Policy at Kaskaskia College requires a student seeking a dependency override to complete the Kaskaskia College Dependency Override Appeal. Decisions made at other institutions are not accepted.

2026-2027 Dependency Override Appeal: Instructions

You should complete this form if you are considered a dependent student for federal financial aid and believe you have compelling extenuating circumstances which should allow you to be considered an independent student. Return the completed form with the required documentation to the Office of Financial Aid. ***We understand the sensitive nature of these circumstances; all documentation received by our office will be kept confidential.***

Please note the following:

- Complete the 2026-2027 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at www.fafsa.gov prior to completing and submitting the Dependency Override Appeal.
- Financial Aid policy at Kaskaskia College requires a student seeking a dependency override to complete the Kaskaskia College Dependency Override Appeal. Decisions made at other institutions are not accepted.
- The determination of whether or not to approve a dependency override is made by the Office of Financial Aid at Kaskaskia College – not the U.S. Department of Education. All decisions made by the Office of Financial Aid on dependency overrides are FINAL and cannot be appealed.

Dependency Override Appeal Process:

1. Personal Statement:

On a separate sheet of paper, tell us in your own words why you are requesting a dependency override. Be sure to describe the following: (1) The nature of your relationship with your parents; (2) the location of both parents and when you last had contact with them; (3) why you cannot obtain information and/or support from your parents. Sign and date your statement.

2. Third-Party Statements:

Provide at least two letters from third-party adult individuals who personally have knowledge of your situation and who can verify your circumstances. At least one letter (on letterhead) must be from a guidance counselor, physician, social worker, clergy person, or another individual who has been involved in the circumstances in a professional capacity. All letters must include details as to how the person knows you, how long they have known you, and how they have been involved and/or have first-hand knowledge of your situation. The individuals submitting letters cannot be related to one another, nor can they reside at the same address. A telephone number and address where the individual can be reached for follow up questions must be included.

3. Dependency Override Appeal Form:

Complete all sections of the appeal form.

4. Supporting Documentation:

In addition to your personal statement, third-party statements, and the appeal form, you must provide the following documents with your appeal:

- Copy of 2024 signed Federal Tax Return and 2024 W-2 Forms. If you are not required to file, be sure to complete Step 5 of the appeal form and attach copies of your W-2's or 1099 forms.
- Copy of your current lease or rental agreement. If you do not have either, attach a signed statement from your current landlord verifying your tenancy.

After Filing the Dependency Override Appeal:

If your appeal is approved: We will notify you via email, and will submit the override to the Central Processing System. Your financial aid will then be packaged based on independent status.

If your appeal is not approved: We will notify you via email of our decision. In order to receive a financial aid package, you **MUST** provide parent financial information and signatures on your FAFSA, using the FAFSA website (www.studentaid.gov)

All decisions on dependency overrides are made based on Professional Judgment by the Office of Financial Aid at Kaskaskia College. All decisions on appeals are FINAL.

2026-2027 Dependency Override Appeal

Date: _____ KC ID: _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

NOTE:

Financial Aid policy at Kaskaskia College requires a student seeking a dependency override to complete and submit the Kaskaskia College Dependency Override Appeal form and all listed documentation to the Kaskaskia College Office of Financial Aid. Decisions made at other institutions are not accepted.

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE RETURNED UNPROCESSED.

Step 1: Personal & 3rd Party/Professional Statements

Personal Statement: Attach a detailed explanation of the unusual & extenuating circumstances that you believe warrant a review of your dependency status. Be sure to include information explaining your relationship with both your mother AND your father; include all circumstances surrounding the situation, including the location of both parents and the date you last had contact with each of them.

3rd Party/Professional Reference Statements: Provide at least two letters from 3rd party adult individuals who personally have knowledge of your situation and who can verify your circumstances. The individuals must have FIRST-HAND, PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE of your situation and the circumstances described in your personal statement. Refer to the Dependency Override Instructions for more information – including examples of acceptable 3rd Party References.

Step 2: Residence Information

Check the appropriate box below:

Where did you live in 2025-2026? ☐ Off Campus ☐ With Parents

Where will you live in 2026-2027? ☐ Off Campus ☐ With Parents

Step 3: Expenses (1): For each item listed below, place an X in the appropriate box.

Did your parent(s) claim you as an exemption on their 2024 federal tax return?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Will/did your parent(s) claim you as an exemption on their 2025 federal tax return?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Will/did your parent(s) claim you as an exemption on their 2026 federal tax return?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Did your parent(s) provide your health insurance (in 2025-2026)?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Will your parent(s) provide your health insurance (in 2026-2027)?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Did your parent(s) provide your auto insurance (in 2025-2026)?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Will your parent(s) provide your auto insurance (in 2026-2027)?	☐ Yes	☐ No

Form continues on next page with Steps 4 through 8.

Step 4: Prior Year Financial Aid Support

Did you receive financial aid during the 2025-2026 Academic year (Fall 2025, Spring 2026, or Summer 2026) ☐ Yes ☐ No

If you answered “yes”, list the institution(s) you attended during the 2025-2026 Academic year.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Step 5: 2024 INCOME. Attach a copy of your signed 2024 federal tax return and W-2 Forms. If you did not file and are not required to file, list below your employer(s) and any income received in 2024 (attach your W-2 or 1099 forms). Attach additional sheet if necessary.

Source of Income	2024 Amount
A)	\$
B)	\$
C)	\$

Step 6: 2024 Untaxed Income – Attach Additional sheet if necessary

Source of Untaxed Income	2024 Amount
A) Workman’s Compensation	\$
B) Untaxed Pensions	\$
C)	\$
D)	\$

Step 7: Expenses (2): For each expense listed below, indicate who pays for, or provides it.

Expense	2024 Amount	Resource (who pays for/provides it)
Rent	\$	
Utilities	\$	
Food	\$	
Transportation (car payment and insurance)	\$	
Medical (health insurance)	\$	

Step 8: Student Certification

This form, along with my signature, confirms that my household size is one.

I certify that the information provided on this form and all accompanying attachments are true and complete. I have read each section and provided the required documentation. I understand that purposefully providing false information could result in a reduction and/or repayment of aid, and/or denial of future appeals in this and future years.

Student Signature _____

Date _____

OFFICE USE ONLY

☐ Dependency Override Appeal Approved

☐ Dependency Override Appeal Denied

Administrator _____ Date _____