



2023-24 Appeal for Independent Status

Federal regulations state that a student is considered dependent for financial aid purposes if they are unable to answer “yes” to any one of the dependency questions on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. If you are considered dependent but feel you have extenuating circumstances you want the Financial Aid Office to consider in order to determine your eligibility for financial aid without regard to parental information, you may submit this Appeal for Independent Status.

The following scenarios are **NOT** grounds for a dependency override:

- Your parents’ unwillingness to provide their information on the FAFSA
- Your parents’ unwillingness to financially support you
- Your ability to support yourself
- Not being claimed as an exemption on your parents’ tax return

Generally, an Appeal for Independent Status must demonstrate that your ties to your parents have been irreparably severed and the circumstance is verifiable by an independent third party. Examples include incarceration or institutionalization of both parents, abusive family environment, whereabouts of parents unknown.

Instructions: On the attached form, provide a personal statement that explains in detail why you are appealing for independent status. Personal statement should include the following information when applicable.

- The reason you are not in contact with your parents
- The reason parental information is not available
- The date you last had contact with your parents
- Details about how you supported yourself since you last had contact with your parents
- Information about any support you received from other persons (with whom you may have lived) since you last had contact with your parents.
- Any other pertinent information you would like us to consider.

If you have any questions about the Appeal for Independent Status or other financial aid matters, please contact the Financial Aid Office at 412-578-6389 or finaid@carlow.edu. For PA State Grant, you should contact PHEAA at 1-800-692-7392 or granthelp@pheaa.org for information about dependency status.

Appeals are reviewed by the Appeal Committee in the Financial Aid Office of Carlow University and all decisions are final. If approved for independent status, the approval does not automatically carry forward. You must submit a new appeal each academic year.



2023-24 Independent Student Appeal Form

Student's Name _____

ID# _____

I do not automatically qualify for independent status on my 2023-24 FAFSA but I am submitting this appeal based on the following information:

- Attached is a copy of my current lease/rental agreement which verifies that I no longer reside in my parents' household. (If you do not have a lease, provide a signed statement from current landlord/roommate verifying your tenancy. Documentation should include address of residence, first date of tenancy and monthly rent.)
- Attached is **at least one letter of verification** from city, state, federal agencies, school or community members (clergy, teachers, or social workers) familiar with my situation.
- Attached is a copy of my 2021 IRS Income Tax Return to verify I was not claimed as a dependent by someone else. (If you did not file a 2021 tax return, submit a signed statement and copies of W2 wage statement(s), if applicable.)

Appeals will not be reviewed until all requested information is submitted.

Certification and Signature

I certify that all of the information reported is complete and accurate.

Student's Signature _____

Date _____

Email/mail your appeal and applicable documentation to:
 Carlow University
 Student HUB Financial Aid Office
 3333 Fifth Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15213
 finaid@carlow.edu
 Or upload your documents to your Self Service record