

2009-2010
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER
Financial Aid Office

Do I Qualify for a Dependency Override?

The laws governing Student Financial Aid programs are based on the premise that the family is the first source of the student's support. These laws provide several criteria, as reflected in Step Three of the FAFSA, where the student is automatically considered to be independent of the parent.

In unusual cases, financial aid administrators can determine that a student who does not meet these criteria should still be treated as an independent student by authorizing a Dependency Override on the FAFSA. The override judgments must be made on a case-by-case basis, and must be thoroughly documented in the student's file. Below are the guidelines issued by the Department of Education for Financial Aid Administrators to use in making such judgment:

The following, **DO NOT**, singly or in combination, qualify as unusual circumstances or merit a dependency override:

- 1) Parents refuse to contribute to the student's education;
- 2) Parents are unwilling to provide information on the application or for verification;
- 3) Parents do not claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes;
- 4) Student demonstrates total self-sufficiency.

After reading the information above, if you believe that you have unusual circumstances that should be considered in determining your dependency status, please use the back of this document to write a summary of your situation. Be sure to include your name and student ID number on all documentation. Return this form and any supporting documents to the Financial Aid Office. A Financial Aid Counselor will review your information and contact you concerning the results of the review. Please allow 5-10 days for the counselors to review your request.

Applicant Name _____

Student ID # _____

All correspondence will be conducted through the student's UT Tyler Patriot email address.

With few exceptions, you are entitled on your request to be informed about the information The University of Texas at Tyler collects about you. Under Sections 552.021 and 552.023 of the Texas Government Code, you are entitled to receive and review the information. Under Section 559.004 of the Texas Government Code, you are entitled to have The University of Texas at Tyler correct information about you that is held by us and that is incorrect, in accordance with the procedures set forth in The University of Texas System Business Procedures Memorandum 32. The information that The University of Texas at Tyler collects will be retained and maintained as required by Texas records retention laws (Section 441.180 et seq. of the Texas Government Code) and rules. Different types of information are kept for different periods of time.

Please explain below your unusual family situation as it pertains to a dependency override.

I certify that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, and that any misleading information would require that I repay any funding received, and could jeopardize further Title IV eligibility.

Signature

Date