

INDEPENDENCY APPEAL

2019 - 2020

REVIEW OF EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

The Federal methodology assumes that the primary responsibility for paying for college costs rest with the family. Federal regulations permits the University to exercise professional judgment in determining if unusual circumstances can be documented to make the student independent for federal financial aid purposes. On a case by case basis, the Independency Appeals Committee in the Office of Student Financial Aid will exercise professional judgment in determining if unusual circumstances exist and if adequate documentation has been provided.

2019-2020

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WHAT DOES NOT CONSTITUTE EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

Please Read Carefully

You cannot file an appeal if your circumstances represent any of the categories listed below.

1. A parent refusing to provide information or contribute to your education.
2. A student who does not want to ask parents for information.
3. A student who is and has been on “their own” for several years.
4. Parents who do not claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes.
5. A student who has been previously considered independent for the purposes of receiving financial aid.
6. A student who is divorced at the time of filing a FAFSA and does not meet one of the current definitions of independency for 2019-2020.

Complete the Independency Appeal and attach documentation to the appeal. Circumstances must be validated through documentation. Failure to provide adequate documentation will result in the appeal being denied.

Retain this instruction sheet and keep copies of your documents for your records. The Office cannot return documents or provide copies at a later date. Place your panther ID Number on all documents.

Please allow 10 business days for a decision. You will be notified by mail or e-mail.

Deadline Dates

The appeal and all supporting documents must be submitted to the Office of Student Financial Aid by:

<u>TERM</u>	<u>DEADLINE DATE</u>
Fall	October 2, 2019
Spring	March 1, 2020
Summer	June 1, 2020

Return the completed appeal form along with the necessary documentation to:

- **Mail:** Office of Student Financial Aid, P.O. Box 4040, Atlanta, GA 30302-4040
- **Fax:** 678-891-3427
- **In-person:** Drop-off at your campus financial aid office
- **Phone:** 404-413-2600

2019-2020

INDEPENDENCY APPEAL

Panther ID Number									

NAME AND ADDRESS		
Student's Last Name	First	MI
Home Phone (area code + number)	Cell Phone (area code + number)	
Street	Apt/Suite No.	
City	State	Zip Code

STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS

I. Explain the unusual circumstances that make it impossible for both of your parents to complete the Free Application for Federal student Aid (FAFSA). Attach an additional sheet if necessary.

A. Explain why you are unable to provide your mother's information

B. Explain why you are unable to provide your father's information

C. Explain how you are meeting your educational and living expenses without parental assistance

Panther ID Number								

2019-2020 INDEPENDENCY APPEAL

PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION

II. Secure written documentation from other appropriate persons and/or agencies, confirming the details as identified in the appeal. Attach to this form.

Statements detailing the history of the student/parent relationship should be provided by:

- An adult relative (24 years of age or older): specify relation to you. Document must be notarized.
- A professional, such as, a high school official, physician, minister, attorney, social service agency. Documents; death certificate, police report, etc. Documentation must be on official letterhead.

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

III. I declare under penalty of perjury that the information provided for this appeal is true and correct.

Student's Signature _____

Date _____

WARNING

Purposely giving false or misleading information may result in a fine, jail sentence or both.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Reviewed by: Accepted Denied

PJ: _____

Notification Date: _____