Dear student:

Per the US Department of Education, you are “automatically” deemed an independent student if you meet one of the following criteria:

1. You are over 24 years of age
2. You will be working on a master’s degree or PhD during the current academic year
3. You are married (as of the date the current years’ FAFSA was filed)
4. You have children that receive more than half of their support from you
5. You are an orphan and/or a ward of the court prior to your 18th birthday
6. You are a veteran of the US armed forces

If you meet any of the above listed criteria, please schedule an appointment with your FA Counselor to review the accuracy of your ISIR/SAR record.

If you do not meet any of the above listed criteria, you MAY be eligible for a “Dependency Override” if you meet any of the following criteria:

1. Both parents are now deceased
2. Custodial parent now deceased and you have never had contact with remaining parent
3. You were an emancipated minor prior to your 18th birthday
4. Both parents are institutionalized
5. Custodial Parent is institutionalized and you have never had contact with remaining parent
6. You meet the US Department of Education standard of “involuntary disillusionment” from your parents (abusive home environment)

If you feel you meet any of the above criteria, please schedule an appointment with your FA Counselor to review the required steps you must follow to file a “Dependency Override” appeal.

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT ALL DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE APPEALS FILED WITH THE OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID ARE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE FA APPEALS COMMITTEE AND ALL DECISIONS ARE FINAL.