



ATHENS - ELBERT - GREENE - WALTON
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2018-2019 Dependency Appeal

The Federal methodology assumes that the primary responsibilities for paying college costs rest with the family. Federal regulations permit Athens Tech to exercise professional judgment in determining if unusual circumstances can be documented to make the student independent for federal financial aid purposes. This determination is made on a case-by-case basis.

STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS:

Complete the attached Dependency Appeal

- 1) Secure at least three written sources of documentation from other appropriate persons or agencies confirming the specifics as identified in the appeal.
 - i) Documentation must either be on official letterhead or notarized.
 - ii) Letters detailing the history of the student/parent relationship should be provided by:
 - 1) An adult relative (24 years or older); specify relationship to you or
 - 2) An adult professional, such as a high school counselor, physician, minister, attorney, social agency employee, etc.
- 2) Attach documentation showing resources for 2016 (e.g. signed 2016 signed Income Tax Transcript, 2016 W2 statement or other proof of resources).

None of the conditions listed below, singly or in combination, qualify as unusual circumstances or merit dependency override:

- 1) Parents refuse to contribute to the student's education
- 2) Parents are unwilling to provide information on the FAFSA
- 3) Parents do not claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes
- 4) Student demonstrates total self-sufficiency
- 5) Student has been "on their own" for several years
- 6) Student does not communicate with parents
- 7) Student was previously considered independent for the purpose of receiving financial aid but does not meet the current definition for 2018-2019.
- 8) Student is divorced at the time of filing and does not meet one of the current definitions for 2018-2019.

REVIEW OF EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

Extenuating circumstances do include an abusive family environment or abandonment by parents and may cause any of the above conditions. In such cases a dependency override might be warranted. On a case-by-case basis, the Office of Student Financial Aid will exercise professional judgment in determining if unusual circumstances exist and if adequate documentation has been provided. The student will be notified by mail.

**Retain this instruction sheet for your records. You need only turn in the attached
Independency Appeal Form. Please keep copies of your documents. The office cannot
return documents or provide copies at a later date.**

