

2008-2009 DEPENDENCY APPEAL REQUEST FORM

Federal regulations define an **independent student** to be one of the following:

- Born before 1/1/85
- Veteran of U. S. Armed Forces
- Currently serving on active duty in the US Armed Forces
- Graduate/Professional Student
- Married
- Orphan or Ward of the Court
- Have legal dependents other than spouse

If you do not meet any of the above criteria, the federal government mandates that you **and** your family bear primary responsibility for financing your education. This requirement can be overridden only in certain **limited** and **exceptional** circumstances. Parental unwillingness or inability to contribute is not considered an “exceptional circumstance.” A student living on his/her own and paying his/her own bills **is not considered an “exceptional circumstance.”**

Each institution is required to institute its own policies regarding the granting of dependency appeals. Students who receive a dependence override from one school do not necessarily receive one from the next school they attend.

The attached form details examples of the circumstances under which UMBC’s Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships can **consider** a dependency appeal. If the circumstances listed on the form apply to you, please complete and return it to our office, along with required documentation. You should complete your 2008-2009 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on-line at www.fafsa.ed.gov to the best of your ability. Remember to include UMBC’s Title IV code (002105) so that the information may be released to UMBC.

**Please note that your FAFSA application will be rejected without a parent signature; however if your appeal is approved, our office will have immediate access to update your FAFSA information.*

The Appeals Committee will review the information and notify you of its decision by mail. Failure to provide requested documentation may result in a delay or denial of your appeal request. In addition, the Appeals Committee may need to request additional documentation to support your appeal as well as a personal interview with the committee. **All documents and information collected to support this appeal will remain confidential and used solely to determine eligibility for financial aid assistance.**

Completion of this form and submission of documents **does not guarantee** approval of a dependency appeal. Approval of an appeal **does not guarantee** receipt of additional aid. Students remain responsible for all outstanding bills with UMBC.

****Please note: Students approved for a dependency override must renew their dependency appeal each year until the student is automatically considered independent by federal criteria.**

2008-09 DEPENDENCY APPEAL REQUEST FORM continued

NAME: _____

MyUMBC ID: _____ DATE: _____

PERMANENT ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ PHONE NUMBER: __ (____) _____

In order to consider an appeal of dependency status, the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships must have documented proof of an extreme situation that prevents the student from obtaining parental data for the FAFSA form. Situations that may be considered are as follows: physical abuse, sexual abuse, parent’s use of drugs or alcohol, or other similarly extreme situations that result in separation of a family. The following are required to document such a situation:

- Write and attach a clear and concise **one-page** explanation of your circumstance. Include a complete history of:
 - ✓ your relationship with your biological and/or legally adoptive parents
 - ✓ specific dates of events
 - ✓ where you have lived
 - ✓ your sources of income
 - ✓ how you have supported yourself while living apart from your parents

- Two letters from professionals (on letterhead) documenting the situation (i.e. clergy, counselors, social worker, police, physicians). These letters should be detailed and refer to actual events. Your references should have first hand knowledge of your extreme situation; a generic letter referencing knowledge of “the circumstances” is not sufficient. Police reports and/or legal guardianship papers may, in some cases, substitute for one letter. The Appeals Committee may contact your references for additional clarification of your situation.

Letters are attached from the following professionals:

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	RELATIONSHIP

Appeals submitted without above required documentation cannot be considered.

I understand that completion of this form does not ensure a change in dependency status or receipt of additional financial aid. I also understand that intentionally false statements or misrepresentations will mean that my request is cancelled and the decision of the Appeals Committee is final.

Student Signature

Date