

INDEPENDENT STATUS PETITION

Academic Year 2008-2009

Office of Enrollment Services
University of Rhode Island
Green Hall, 35 Campus Avenue
Kingston, RI 02881-1303
Phone: 401-874-9500

DIRECTIONS—The deadline for filing this form is **April 1, 2009**. If you have not received a response within 10 working days, please call the Office of Enrollment Services at the phone number listed above.

To complete this form online, place your cursor in a field and type. Print and submit to the address above.

Student name (last, first, middle initial)	Social Security number	Student I. D. number
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Address (street or P. O. box, apartment number, city, state, ZIP code)	Telephone number (include area code) ()
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Independent status definition

The federally mandated formula used to determine your financial need is based on the premise that your family has the primary responsibility to pay for your higher education. The federal government has specific standards to determine who has **dependent status** (you must include parental information on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid [FAFSA]) and who has **independent status** and is not required to give parental information when applying for financial aid.

To have independent status, you must meet *at least one* of the following conditions:

- You were born before January 1, 1985.
- You were a ward of the court until age 18, or both parents are deceased.
- You are a veteran of the United States Armed Services.
- You are married.
- You have children who receive more than half of their support from you.
- You have dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you, now and through June 30, 2009.
- You are enrolled in a graduate or professional program.

If you were considered independent for financial aid purposes at a previous school, you do not automatically qualify for independent status at the University of Rhode Island. Please follow petition procedures outlined in the following section.

Petition procedures for extenuating circumstances

Exceptions to the federal dependency definition may be made on a case-by-case basis. If you do not meet any of the conditions for independent status set forth above, you may appeal your status if you believe you have extenuating circumstances. Be aware that parental disagreements and refusal of the parent or stepparent to provide support or information are not considered unusual circumstances for the purpose of achieving independent status for financial aid. Being self-supporting, in and of itself, is not sufficient reason for independent status.

If you feel that you have extenuating circumstances that would allow you to receive financial aid as an independent student, please submit the following information to the Office of Enrollment Services:

1. **A personal letter describing your extenuating circumstances**—Include any support you have received from your parents during the last two years.
2. **Third party documentation supporting the extenuating circumstances you described**—Examples of adequate documentation: court documents or a letter on letterhead from a high school counselor, case worker, social worker, clergy, or other professional who confirms that your situation warrants independent status.
3. **Signed copies of 2007 Federal 1040 A, EZ, or TeleFile tax return**—You must have sufficient income to support yourself.
4. **Any supporting documentation**—Attach copies of any documentation pertinent to your extenuating circumstance.
5. A completed and signed 2008–2009 FAFSA or a signed and updated 2008–2009 Student Aid Report (SAR), if your FAFSA has already been processed.