



GRAYS HARBOR COLLEGE

2019-2020 Petition for Independent Status

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THIS PETITION!

The Higher Education Act allows a financial aid administrator to override a student's dependency status and declare him/her to be independent on a case-by-case basis for certain unusual circumstances. Please note, however, that none of the conditions listed below, singly or in combination, qualify as unusual circumstances meriting a dependency override:

- Parents refuse to contribute to the student's education;
- Parents are unwilling to provide information on the FAFSA or for verification;
- Parents do not claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes;
- Student demonstrates total self-sufficiency.

Unusual circumstances may include an abusive family environment, abandonment by parents, homelessness or at risk of being homeless. If you feel that these circumstances apply to you complete this form and provide all of the required documentation.

Renewal of Petition for Independent Status: An approved Petition for Independent Status is granted on a yearly basis. Students with an approved petition must reapply each year.

Note: The decision of the Financial Aid Office is final and cannot be appealed. You will be notified in writing of the status of your petition in approximately three weeks.

Student Information

Last Name

First Name

SSN

Current Phone Number

Email Address

Instructions

Complete ALL OF THE FOLLOWING steps, checking off each step as it is completed.

- Complete and submit your FAFSA online (www.fafsa.gov) **without** your parent's information.
- Complete and sign the 2019-2020 1I Independent Verification Worksheet and provide a copy of your 2017 Tax Return Transcript or a signed copy of your 2017 Tax Return
(The verification form can be downloaded at:
https://www.ghc.edu/sites/default/files/GetStarted/documents/financialaid/19-20_1I.pdf)
- Complete either **Option 1** or **Option 2** on the next page.

Option 1: New Petition for Independent Status

- Attach a typed, signed statement (written by you) describing your circumstances. Include the following:
 - a. A description of where and with whom you are living, and how long you have lived at this location.
 - b. If you are estranged from your parents, please describe the nature and cause of the estrangement and when this occurred.
 - c. When, where, and under what circumstances did you last have contact with your parent(s).
 - d. An explanation of how you have been supported, or have supported yourself, and for how long. Statements explaining that you support yourself **are not** sufficient to meet the requirement for independent status.
- Attach at least 2 typed, signed statements from adults who are aware of your situation and can verify your statement. At least one of these statements must be from someone in a professional capacity (such as a teacher, counselor or clergy member).
 - a. Statements must include their name, job title, address, contact phone number, relationship to you, how long they have known you, and in what capacity.
 - b. Statements should include information concerning why you have no contact with both parents and the last time you had contact with them. Statements explaining that you support yourself **are not** sufficient to meet the requirement for independent status.
- Provide supporting documentation (if available) which may include, but is not limited to: documents confirming parent is deceased, incarcerated or institutionalized, court documents confirming that there is a protection/restraining order that prohibits contact with the parent(s). Copies of official court documents are also acceptable.
- Sign and submit this petition form and all of the required documents.

Option 2: Renewal Petition for Independent Status *(must have had a 18-19 petition approved)*

- Attach a typed, signed statement (written by you) describing your circumstances. Include the following:
 - a. A description of where and with whom you are living, and how long you have lived at this location.
 - b. If you are estranged from your parents, please describe the nature and cause of the estrangement and when this occurred.
 - c. When, where, and under what circumstances you last had contact with your parent(s).
 - d. An explanation of how you have been supported, or have supported yourself, and for how long. Statements explaining that you support yourself **are not** sufficient to meet the requirement for independent status.
 - e. Describe any changes that have occurred since you last submitted your Petition for Independent Status.
- If any changes have occurred since you last submitted your Petition for Independent Status, provide any documentation to support the change(s).
- Sign and submit this petition form with all required documents.

Certification

I certify that the facts presented within this petition are true and correct. I understand that providing false or misleading information could result in fines, imprisonment and/or a repayment of all aid received.

Signature

Date