

TEXAS LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

DEPENDENCY CHANGE REQUEST FORM

2009-2010

Student Name: _____ Student ID/SSN: _____

Street Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Daytime Phone No.: (____) _____ E-mail: _____

Federal regulations that govern financial aid limit who can be considered independent. The standard definition of an independent student is someone that can answer yes to at least one of the following questions:

1. Were you born before January 1, 1986?
2. As of today, are you married? (Answer yes if you are separated but not divorced.)
3. Do you have children who receive more than half of their support from you?
4. Do 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, 2010?
5. Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training?
6. Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?
7. Are you or were you in legal guardianship or an emancipated minor as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?
8. At any time on or after July 1, 2008 did your high school or school district homeless liaison or the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by HUD determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless OR the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?

If you answered yes to any of the questions above, complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You will automatically be considered independent for financial aid.

If you answered no to all of the questions above, a financial aid administrator can determine that you are independent if you have unusual circumstances. This determination is made by each school and may be different depending on the college you attend.

Unusual circumstances include an abusive family environment or abandonment by parents. However, none of the conditions listed below, singly or in combination, qualify as unusual circumstances meriting a dependency override.

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

If you feel you should be independent based on an unusual circumstance and none of the four situations above apply to you, then please submit the following information along with this form to the Office of Financial Aid at TLU.

1. A signed and dated written statement from you explaining in detail your situation and why you should be independent.
2. A signed and dated written statement from at least one other independent source such as clergy, counselor or relative that is not a member of your immediate family.
3. Any other documentation that supports your situation. i.e. death certificates, court documents, etc.
4. Completed 2009-2010 Verification Form.
5. Copy of your 2008 federal tax returns and W-2s.

Certification Statement:

I certify that all the information on this form and in attached documents is true and complete to the best of my knowledge, and I respectfully request that my dependency status be defined as INDEPENDENT.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

For FAO Use only

Status (circle one) I D FA Administrator: _____ Date: _____