

**TEXAS LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY**  
**DEPENDENCY CHANGE REQUEST FORM**  
**2008-2009**

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 one of the following questions:

1. Were you born before January 1, 1985?
2. At the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year, will you be working on a master's or doctorate program (such as an MA, MBA, MD, JD, PHD, EdD, or graduate certificate, etc.)?
3. As of today, are you married? (Answer yes if you are separated but not divorced.)
4. Do you have children who receive more than half of their support from you?
5. 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, 2009?
6. Are (a) both of your parents deceased, or (b) are you (or were you until age 18) a ward/dependent of the court?
7. Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training?
8. Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?

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 these sheet 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 2008-2009 Verification Form.
5. Copy of your 2007 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: \_\_\_\_\_