



COLLEGE of SOUTHERN MARYLAND

2025-2026 DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE APPEAL

Name_____ Student ID_____

Address_____ City_____ State_____ Zip_____

The U.S. Congress designed the Federal Student Aid programs around the basic premise that families have the primary responsibility to pay for higher education as they are able. Many students feel they are independent because they are currently living on their own or because their parents no longer claim them on their income taxes. The Financial Aid Office is required by federal law to consider parent information unless the student meets specific criteria as defined on the FAFSA.

We may be able to override your dependent status if **unusual family circumstances exist that make it impossible for you to have contact with your parents.**

Parent refusal to contribute to education costs or provide income information is not, by itself, a basis for a review.

Dependency Override Warrants:

May Warrant	Does Not Warrant
<input type="checkbox"/> Documented abandonment	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent(s) refuse to provide information for the FAFSA
<input type="checkbox"/> Parental drug abuse	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent(s) do not claim student as a dependent for income tax purposes
<input type="checkbox"/> Physical or emotional abuse	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent(s) are unwilling or unable to contribute to student's education
<input type="checkbox"/> Severe estrangement from parent(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Student demonstrates self-sufficiency
<input type="checkbox"/> Parental mental incapacity	<input type="checkbox"/> Student reluctant to request income information from parent(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> Your parent(s) live out of the country, and unable to maintain contact	<input type="checkbox"/> Student does not wish to communicate with parent(s)

Before the Financial Aid Department will consider any changes regarding dependency status, you must complete this form and provide supporting documentation. We may request additional information for consideration of your review.

Documentation:

Select from the options below, attach the required documents to this form.

☐ I was granted a Dependency Override and received financial aid as an independent student in 2024-25:

1. Provide an updated letter describing your current situation and relationship with you parent(s).

OR

☐ I believe my family situation warrants Dependency Override consideration:

1. A letter of explanation, written by the student, detailing:
 - The family circumstances that led to the student to leave the parents' household.
 - Last known contact with your parents.
 - How you have been supporting yourself.
 - Where and with whom you have been living.
2. Letters from **two professionals** (on their **official business letterhead** stationery), verifying the family circumstances described by the student. *Professionals include guidance counselors, clergy members, teachers, doctors, family counselors, mental health professionals, and law enforcement personnel. Contact information should be included.
3. Court documents or other supporting documentation relevant to the student's situation.

CERTIFICATION: All the information provided on this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. If asked by an authorized official of the college, I agree to give proof of the information that I have given on this form. I further understand that if I do not give proof, my request for dependency override appeal will not be considered. I understand that purposely providing false or misleading information on this form may result in reduction or repayment of aid, fines, and/or imprisonment. I authorize the use of this information and any supporting documentation to be utilized at the College of Southern Maryland.

Student's Signature (handwritten)

Date

CSM Student ID

Please allow two weeks for processing after we have received all requested documents.

FAD Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday | 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Friday | 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Send All Correspondence to:

College of Southern Maryland*Financial Assistance Department
P.O. Box 910* La Plata, MD 20646* Finaid@csm.edu
Telephone: 301-934-2261, 301-870-3008, ext. 7531, or 301-934-7531 (Direct Line)