

# Independent Appeal 2021 – 2022



Financial Aid Office  
5724 SW Huntoon • Topeka, KS 66604  
(785) 670-3360 • (785) 273-7080 fax  
[tech-fa-info@washburn.edu](mailto:tech-fa-info@washburn.edu)

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Student Name

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Washburn ID

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Student Phone Number

Dependency status determines whose information must be provided on the FAFSA – student and parent (dependent) OR just student and/or spouse, if married (independent). Students are only considered to be independent if they meet certain criteria, as established by federal regulations.

More information regarding dependency status and criteria can be found at <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/dependency>.

**If you do not meet independent status criteria, but believe you have unusual circumstances, you may submit an independent appeal for review. Appeals for independent status are reviewed on a case-by-case basis and are only granted for unusual, documented circumstances, such as the following.**

**Check the box that applies.**

- Student's voluntary or involuntary removal from parents' home due to an abusive situation that threatened the student's safety and/or health
- Incapacity of parents such as incarceration, disability or mental or physical illness
- Inability of the student to locate the parent(s) after making reasonable efforts
- Other extenuating circumstances sufficiently documented by a signed letter from a third party

The following conditions ***do not qualify*** for an independent appeal:

- Parents' refusal 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 that he or she is fully self-sufficient

**If you believe you have an unusual circumstance that may qualify for an independent appeal, complete steps 1-4.**

- 1. Complete a 2020-21 FAFSA (<https://studentloans.gov>) without parent information.**
  - If your appeal is denied, you will have to correct your FAFSA with parent information at that time.
- 2. Submit a personal letter of appeal to the Financial Aid Office, indicating why you should be considered independent for financial aid purposes.**
- 3. Submit supporting documentation from authoritative, objective, third-party individuals or organizations.**
  - These may be letters to the Financial Aid Office from individuals who have first-hand knowledge of your situation, copies of legal documents, or other applicable documentation.
  - Letters of support from relatives and friends are not considered third-party and therefore will only be accepted for cases in which other appropriate documentation cannot be obtained (case-by-case).
  - Examples of appropriate third-party documentation include, but are not limited to:
    - Counselors or teachers
    - Clergy
    - Community groups
    - Government agencies
    - Medical personnel
    - Courts
    - Prison administrator

**4. Submit required household and 2018 tax documentation.**

**A. Number of People in the Household and in College**

List anyone who you are financially supporting more than 50% from 7/1/21 – 6/30/22, including yourself.

Full Name	Age	Relationship to Student	Enrolled half-time in college?	If so, what college?
		Self		

If more space is needed, provide a separate page with your student name and ID number.

Answer the following question to determine whether you should complete section A or B.

**Q1. Did you file 2019 taxes?**

- YES (If yes, complete section B)       NO (If no, complete section C)

**B. 2019 Income Tax Information**

If you filed 2018 taxes, you must complete one of the following to provide verification of your tax information.

Check the box that applies:

- I have transferred, or will transfer, my tax information to my FAFSA through the IRS data retrieval tool.**
- To do this, you will need to log into your FAFSA, select the option to make corrections, link to the IRS, and resubmit your FAFSA with your electronic signature.
- I will provide Washburn with a signed copy of my 2019 Federal Income Tax Return.**
- \_\_\_ Check here if you will provide the signed copy of your 2019 Federal Income Tax Return at a later time.

**C. 2018 Income Information for Nontax Filers**

If you did not, and will not, file 2019 taxes, you must:

- Provide documentation from the IRS dated on or after 10/1/20 that indicates a 2019 IRS income tax return was not filed.**
  - To obtain a Verification of Nonfiling document from the IRS, complete Form 4506-T and submit it to the IRS. This form can be found at <https://www.washburn.edu/admissions/paying-for-college/financial-aid/Files/20-21/4506t.pdf>. Once received, submit to the Financial Aid Office.

\_\_\_ Check here if you will provide the 2019 Proof of Nonfiling at a later date.
- Check the box below that applies to your 2019 income.**

**I was not employed and did not have any income from work in 2019.**

**I was employed in 2019 but did not file a tax return.**

  - List the names of your employers and amounts earned.
  - Copies of your 2019 W-2 forms must be provided.

\_\_\_ Check here if you will provide the 2018 W-2's at a later date.

Employer's Name	2019 Amount Earned	IRS W-2 Form Provided?

If more space is needed, provide a separate page with student name and ID number.

**D. Certification and Signatures**

By signing this worksheet, you certify that all of the information reported on it is complete and correct.

**WARNING: If you purposely give false or misleading information on this worksheet, you may be fined, be sentenced to jail, or both.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date