

Federal regulations permit the University to override a student's dependency status for federal financial aid purposes if unusual circumstances exist and can be documented. This determination is made on a case-by-case basis. Not all requests will qualify for a Dependency Override. A Dependency Override request can take up to 30 business days to process.

The following conditions are **NOT** considered unusual circumstances:

- A parent refusing to provide data or refusing to contribute towards the student's education.
- A student who does not wish to communicate with parents or who is not claimed on the parents' income tax.
- A student who demonstrates total self-sufficiency and does not meet at least one of the current definitions of an independent student (as established on Section 3 of the FAFSA application).
- A student who has been previously considered independent for the purposes of receiving financial aid but does not meet at least one of the current definitions of an independent student (as established on Section 3 of the FAFSA application).
- A student who is divorced at the time of filing and does not meet one of the current definitions of an independent student (as established on Section 3 of the FAFSA application).

A. STUDENT INFORMATION

Name (Print) _____ Panther ID _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____ Phone # _____ E-mail _____

B. MINIMUM REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION MAY BE REQUIRED

Complete 2026-2027 FAFSA application (www.fafsa.gov)

2024 **SIGNED** student taxes and W-2's. If you did not/will not file a 2024 tax return, please submit an [IRS Verification of Non-filing Letter](#).

A **SIGNED** letter from you, including either a handwritten (wet) signature or a valid electronic signature, explaining your request for a dependency override. The letter must include detailed information about the current whereabouts of **BOTH** of your parents, the nature of your relationship with each of them, and any unusual circumstances you would like the Financial Aid Office to consider.

Three (3) letters, each including either a handwritten (wet) signature or a valid electronic signature, and either notarized with a business card attached or written on official letterhead. Letters must come from officials—such as clergy member, doctor, lawyer, professor, teacher, counselor, psychiatrist, psychologist, government official, court representative, or prison administrator—who can attest to your independent status, as well as the whereabouts of both of your parents and your relationship with them. **Only one letter may be from a relative or friend.**

Copy of Death Certificates, if parent(s) are deceased.

C. DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE RENEWAL (select if applicable)

A student with an **approved** Dependency Override for the 2025-2026 academic year who does not meet the federal criteria for independent status on the 2026-2027 FAFSA, check here.

D. SIGNATURE

All the information on this form is true to the best of my knowledge and I have attached the appropriate supporting documentation.

Student Signature _____ Panther ID _____ Date _____

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Login to your *my.fiu.edu* account
- 2) Click on the *Student Tools* tile
- 3) Click on the *Document Upload* tile
- 4) Select *Financial Aid, 2026-2027, and Dependency Override* from the drop-down menu
- 5) Upload and save