2026-2027 Dependency Status Appeal

BASED ON UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS CANNOT BE PROCESSED

Student Name (Last, First, MI)	MACC Student ID Number

Although parents are expected to provide information on a student's FAFSA, sometimes it is not possible due to unique family situations and unusual circumstances. If you believe you have an unusual circumstance or unique family situation, please complete this form and submit all required documents to the Financial Aid Office. Please note, all decisions are made at the discretion and professional judgment of the MACC Financial Aid Office. Submission of this form and supporting documents does not guarantee approval; and, if the financial aid administrator determines an override is not appropriate, the decision cannot be appealed.

Please note: none of the conditions listed below, singly or in combination, qualify as **unusual circumstances** meriting a dependency override:

- Parents refuse 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 total self-sufficiency.

The law requires a determination of unusual circumstances for a dependency override be made each award year. A decision made in one award year does not automatically mean a student would be deemed independent in another year. Also, a dependency override performed at another school will not warrant a dependency override at MACC.

1. You <u>may</u> be independent if any of the following circumstances apply to your situation. If you answer yes to any question below, sign this form and return with the required documentation to support your answer. You do not need to complete questions 2-5.		
❑ Yes ❑ No	At any time on or after July 1, 2025, were you declared unaccompanied and either (1) homeless or (2) self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?	Complete Unaccompanied Youth & Homeless Verification Form
❑ Yes ❑ No	Are you or were you an emancipated minor as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?	Provide court documentation
❑ Yes ❑ No	At any time since you turned age 13, were your parents deceased, were you in foster care or were you a dependent or ward of the court?	Provide death certificates for your parents; or, provide court documents regarding foster care &/or status as a dependent or ward of the court
❑ Yes ❑ No	Does someone other than your parent or step-parent have legal guardianship of you, as determined by a court in your state of legal residence.	Provide court documentation

2. Please check one and proceed as instructed.

☐ This is my first dependency status review at Moberly Area Community College. Proceed to #3.

☐ I am applying for a renewal of a previous dependency status override approved at MACC. If you selected this option, MACC may presume your circumstances are the same from the previous year.

- By checking this box, I am confirming my circumstances have not changed since the previous dependency status override was approved at MACC. If MACC discovers conflicting information, I understand I may be required to submit supporting documentation.
- **Initials:** _____
- Academic year the dependency status override was approved: _____
- **Go to Certification and Authorization on page 3.**

3. Check the reason that best applies to your situation. I do not meet any of the criteria listed in #1, and I am unable to provide my parents' information on my 2026-2027 FAFSA because:

☐ I have contact with my parent(s) but my parent(s) refuse to complete the FAFSA and do not and will not provide me any financial support. *Refusal to complete the FAFSA or their unwillingness to provide financial support does not justify a dependency override.*

Please read the next paragraph and submit a notarized statement from both of your parents with this form. If you are unable to obtain a statement from both parents, include a statement explaining the circumstances. You do not need to answer the remaining questions, but you do need to sign the form. ***You will only be eligible for an unsubsidized loan at the dependent student grade level limit.***

Your parents must write and sign a statement indicating *they refuse to complete the FAFSA for the student*; **or,** *they do not and will not provide you any financial support. Include the date the support ended*. You may use the Dependency Status Appeal Reference Form for this. The statement must be notarized.

☐ Other - I have an unusual situation not listed above. Go to #4.

4. Check the reason that best describes your situation and proceed to #5:

☐ Do unusual circumstances prevent you from contacting your parents or would contacting your parents pose a risk? A student may be experiencing unusual circumstances if they:

- Left home due to an abusive or threatening environment;
- Are abandoned by or estranged from their parents;
- Have refugee or asylee status and are separated from their parents, or their parents are displaced in a foreign country;
- Are a victim of human trafficking;
- Are incarcerated, or their parents are incarcerated, and contact with the parents would pose a risk to the student;
- Are otherwise unable to contact or locate their parents.

- If the circumstances resulted in not having a safe, stable place to live, you may be considered an unaccompanied and/or homeless youth. Please review the Unaccompanied Youth & Homeless Verification Form, complete and return if your circumstances can be documented as described.

☐ Since completing the 2026-2027 FAFSA, my marital status has changed from single to married. I am requesting an update to my 2026-2027 FAFSA to reflect more accurately my ability to pay my educational expenses.

- You must submit a copy of your marriage license. Also include all items listed in #5.
- You must add your spouse's 2024 income information to your 2026-2027 FAFSA.

5. Submit the following information with this form:
➢ A detailed, typed statement from you explaining the following: a) the unusual circumstances; b) name and address of both parents; c) the last time you had contact with each of your parents – when, where, and the nature of the contact; d) how you have provided for yourself, or explain if someone else has supported you; and e) when you started meeting your expenses without parental support.
➢ The 2026-2027 V1 Verification Worksheet and all necessary documents for the Verification process as listed in the checklist on page 1 of the Verification Worksheet, including but not limited to: a copy of your 2024 and 2025 Federal Tax Return Transcripts or signed Federal Tax Returns. If appealing due to becoming married, a copy of your and your spouse's 2024 and 2025 Federal Tax Return Transcripts or signed Federal Tax Returns and a copy of all W-2 income statements.
➢ Completed 2026-2027 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at StudentAid.gov. If you are unable to provide parent information you must answer the questions about yourself and answer the question on your FAFSA to indicate you are submitting without parent information.
➢ Two (2) Dependency Status Appeal Reference Forms. The Appeal requires statements from at least TWO references familiar with the family situation. At least one of the references must be from a third-party who is not a family member. Examples of third-party references may include: teachers, pastor/priest, guidance counselor, social worker, mental health counselor, law enforcement official, and/or physician.
➢ A copy of your most recent cell phone bill. If unavailable, provide an explanation in your personal letter, including who pays for the cell phone and what your relationship is to the person(s).
➢ A copy of your current lease agreement or mortgage statement. If unavailable, provide an explanation in your personal letter, including where you live, who pays for the residence and utilities, and what your relationship is to the person(s).
➢ A copy of your proof of health insurance and an explanation of who pays for your insurance. If unavailable, provide an explanation in your personal letter as to why you do not have health insurance.
➢ A copy of your proof of vehicle insurance. If unavailable, provide an explanation including who pays for the insurance and what your relationship is to the person(s).

CERTIFICATION AND AUTHORIZATION	
STUDENT: By signing, I certify that all of the information reported is complete and correct. ***WARNING: if you purposely give false or misleading information you may be fined, be sentenced to jail, or both.***	
Student Signature	*Date*

STOP: Did you fully complete this form? We will return any incomplete/unsigned forms for correction.

If we have reason to believe the information reported is inaccurate or fraudulent, we may require additional documentation

You may submit this form through the Financial Aid Portal, email to finaid@macc.edu from your MACC-issued email account, deliver in-person at the campus nearest you, or mail to:

Moberly Area Community College, Financial Aid Office, 101 S College Avenue, Moberly, MO 65270

Questions? Please call: (660) 263-4100 ext. 11301

School Certification:

OFFICE USE ONLY ☐ Approved ☐ Denied

FAO Signature: _____ DATE: _____

Comments: _____

Date FAFSA submitted: _____ FAO: _____ SAI: _____

2026-2027 Dependency Status Appeal Reference Form

Student Name (Last, First, MI)	MACC Student ID Number

The student named above is submitting a Dependency Status Appeal to the Financial Aid Office at Moberly Area Community College based on unusual family circumstances. These circumstances may include: unsafe home environment, abuse, neglect, and/or abandonment.

Federal regulations require parents to have the primary responsibility to pay for a dependent student's educational expenses. None of the conditions listed below, singly or in combination, qualify as unusual circumstances meriting a dependency override:

- Parents refuse 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 total self-sufficiency.

The Appeal requires statements from at least TWO references familiar with the family situation. At least one of the references must be from a third-party who is not a family member. Examples of third-party references include: teachers, pastor/priest, guidance counselor, social worker, mental health counselor, law enforcement official, and/or physician.

In the space provided below and on the following page, please provide a detailed statement that will corroborate the student's claims of unusual family circumstances. You must include: your relationship with this student, how long you have known them, and any/all details about the student's family situation. You may attach an additional sheet, if necessary.

If a dependent student's parents refuse to complete the FAFSA and are unwilling to provide financial support, but the student cannot demonstrate an unusual family situation, the student may be eligible for an unsubsidized student loan only. The parents must complete this form, explaining in the space below that they refuse to complete the FAFSA and refuse to provide any financial support, and must explain when the support ended. The form must be notarized.

All references must complete and sign this form. A third-party reference may attach statement on official letterhead instead of using space below; and, by doing so, will not require official notary public certification. Otherwise, all references must have this document notarized.

Full Name of Reference	Relationship to Student
Telephone	Email
How Long Have You Known the Student?	Occupation

Continue to page 2 for additional space for comments, signature and Notary Public certification

2026-2027 Dependency Status Appeal Notarization Form

Provide a detailed statement that includes your knowledge about the student and their unusual family circumstances.

By signing this form, I understand that if I purposely give false or misleading information, the Dependency Status Appeal for the student named above may be denied and I will be referred to the United States Department of Education's Inspector General for further action.

Reference Signature	**Date**

TO BE COMPLETED BY AN OFFICIAL NOTARY PUBLIC

STATE OF _____, COUNTY OF _____,

On this _____ day of _____ in the year _____, before me, the undersigned notary public, personally appeared _____, known to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged that he/she executed the same for the purposes therein contained.

In witness whereof, I hereunto set my hand and official seal.

Signature: _____, Notary Public

Printed Name: _____

Notary Public in and for the State of _____

My commission expires _____

Seal or Stamp

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Reference Signature	**Date**

TO BE COMPLETED BY AN OFFICIAL NOTARY PUBLIC

STATE OF _____, COUNTY OF _____,

On this _____ day of _____ in the year _____, before me, the undersigned notary public, personally appeared _____, known to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged that he/she executed the same for the purposes therein contained.

In witness whereof, I hereunto set my hand and official seal.

Signature: _____, Notary Public

Printed Name: _____

Notary Public in and for the State of _____

My commission expires _____

Seal or Stamp