

Student's Name: _____

Student Emplid : _____ Phone Number: _____

Independent Status for Financial Aid:*You will automatically be considered independent in 2026-2027 if you meet any of the following*

1. You were born before January 1, 2003.
2. You are working on a graduate degree (master's; PhD, etc.) in the school year 2026-2027.
3. As of the date of filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), you are married.
4. You are an orphan or ward of the court or were a ward of the court until age 18, or were in foster care any time after age 13. (This does not include students who were placed as a ward of the state.)
5. You are currently serving on active duty (other than training) in the military or are a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces (see FAFSA instructions for definition).
6. You have children who receive more than half of their support from you OR you have dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and receive more than half of their support from you, now through June 30, 2027.
7. You meet the criteria for homelessness or at-risk for homelessness as described on the FAFSA.

Unless you meet one of these criteria for independent status for financial aid, then your biological or adoptive parent(s) must complete the FAFSA with you. Your parent(s) must provide income and asset information on the FAFSA.

Appeals to Dependency Status:

In some **unusual cases**, you may appeal your dependency status.



Per federal regulations, an appeal cannot be based on any of the following:

- Student Financial self-sufficiency
- Parental unwillingness to contribute to college costs
- Parental unwillingness to complete the FAFSA or provide documents or signatures for verification

Appeals must be based on an unusual situation

Some possible reasons for an appeal to your dependency status are listed below:

1. Your parent(s) are incarcerated.
2. Your parent(s) live in a war-torn country and you are unable to communicate/correspond with them.
3. Your parent(s) is/are mentally incapacitated.
4. You had a court-appointed legal guardianship that has ended.
5. You are estranged from your parent(s) because of an abusive situation.
6. Other mitigating circumstance as documented by the applicant.

Instructions:

1. Thoroughly describe your circumstance on the back of this form or attach a written or typed statement.
2. **Provide as much documentation as you can of your stated circumstances. Documentation can be in the form of:**
 - a. Court, attorney, or other legal records
 - b. One or more statements from an individual **other than friends or family members**, who can confirm your statement. This should be from an objective, third party, such as a counselor, social worker, doctor, clergy member, etc. These statements should include a telephone number so we may verify the authenticity of the statement.
 - c. Statements from family can and should be included, but may **not** be the **only** documentation provided. Complete the FAFSA without parental information.
3. Submit your FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov and indicate that you were unable to provide parental information on the FAFSA.
4. Complete and submit this appeal form and all supporting documents to:

Office of Student Financial Aid & Scholarships
Blue Ridge Community College
PO Box 80
Weyers Cave, Va. 24486

Submit online at <https://brcc.dropsecure.com/send/fadocs>

Note: You will be notified in your SIS message center after your appeal has been reviewed. The College Financial Aid Office may request additional information from you before making a decision.

Tips for a successful appeal:

- Describe your situation fully. While we understand that it can be very uncomfortable to go into the details of your personal life, please know that no one outside the financial aid office will be able to access the information on this form or any attachments you submit. It is important for us to get as clear an understanding of why you are appealing as possible.
- Provide as much documentation as you can. We would much rather have too much documentation than not enough. Documents, letters, etc., are very helpful in the appeal process.
- DO NOT have anyone other than yourself write a statement in the space below. Their letters need to be on a separate written or typed page and each statement should be signed by the writer with his or her unique signature.
- DO NOT write a statement for someone else in your handwriting, even if the other person signs it. This will raise suspicion regarding the letter's authenticity.
- If you are not sure what you should submit, contact the financial aid office. We will be happy to meet with you and discuss the best approach for your appeal.

(To be completed by the student) Please describe your situation below:

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

I certify that my responses to all items on this form are true and correct. Penalties provide for a fine of \$10,000, or imprisonment for up to 5 years, or both, if a person embezzles, steals, or obtains funds by false statement or forgery.

Student Signature _____ Date _____