

RETURN TO: Student Services Ctr. 250 Financial Aid and Scholarship Office Chico, CA 95929-0705 Phone: 530-898-6451 Fax: 530-898-6883 Email: finaid@csuchico.edu Website: www.csuchico.edu/fa Instagram: chicostatefinaid	Student Last Name:	Student First Name:		
	Chico State ID:	Phone:		
	Email:			
	Address:			
	Street	City	State	Zip

Federal Regulations Regarding Financial Aid Dependency Status

According to federal regulations, financial aid eligibility is based on the family as the first source of the student’s support. There are questions on the **FAFSA** and the **California Dream Act Application (CADAA)** that determine independent status. For your convenience, page 2 of this appeal form provides a review of these items.

- If you answer “YES” to ANY of the questions, you are considered independent.
- If you answer “NO” to ALL of the questions, then you are considered dependent and you must provide parental information.

There is an appeal process, by which a financial aid advisor may decide that a student who does not meet any of the independent criteria can be treated as an independent student. This is called a **dependency override**, and is considered on a case-by-case and year-by-year basis.

Circumstances That May Meet Dependency Status Appeal Criteria

You must clearly demonstrate and provide documentation of an adverse family situation in order to be considered independent for financial aid purposes. Adverse family situations may include: physical or emotional abuse, severe estrangement, abandonment, parental drug or alcohol abuse, mental incapacity or other circumstances.

Non-eligible Criteria for Independence:

Federal guidelines stipulate the following conditions **do not** solely qualify as circumstances meriting a dependency override

- Parents refusing to contribute to your education
- Parents unwilling to provide information on the FAFSA, CADAA, or documents for verification
- Parents not claiming you as a dependent for income tax purposes
- Student demonstrating total self-sufficiency

Directions to Complete this Appeal

To be considered for a dependency override, **please complete items 1 through 5 below**, and return this appeal to our office with the required documentation specified below. **Incomplete appeals will not be processed.** Keep a copy of the appeal and all documents for your records. Evaluation of your appeal may take up to eight weeks. You will receive notice of our decision by email. Please contact us if you have questions.

1. **You must submit a 2023/2024 FAFSA online at** studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa or a California Dream Act Application at dream.csac.ca.gov. See page 3 of this form for instructions.

- **I have completed a 2023/2024 FAFSA or California Dream Act Application in _____ (month and year).**

2. **Required Documentation.** Write your name and Chico State I.D. on every document. You must include the following:

- **Signed Student Statement.** Clearly outline the adverse circumstances you believe make you independent. Describe your family history and current relationship with your parent(s). Include in your statement an explanation of how you paid your basic living expenses (rent, utilities, food) in 2021. Please note: One of our responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment on our campus. We seek to keep information you share private to the greatest extent possible. However, Financial Aid staff are required to share information regarding sexual misconduct, dating or domestic violence, and stalking with the University. Students may speak to someone confidentially by contacting the Counseling and Wellness center (530-898-6345) or Safe Space (530-898-3030). Information on campus reporting obligations and other title IX related resources are available at: www.csuchico.edu/title-ix .
- **Third-Party Statement.** This is a signed statement from another individual who has knowledge of your adverse family situation. This statement may be from a school counselor or administrator, clergy member, physician, social worker or therapist. The statement should be submitted on letterhead from the person’s place of employment, and include their full address and phone number.

3. **What are your living arrangements during the summer?**

4. **Were you claimed as a dependent by anyone on a 2021 federal income tax return?** No Yes
 If yes, identify person _____, relationship _____, and year _____ .

5. **Did you complete a Dependency Status Appeal for the previous year?** No Yes

STUDENT DEPENDENCY STATUS APPEAL

Student Dependency Status Worksheet 2023-2024

Were you born before January 1, 2000?	Yes	No
As of today, are you married? (Answer “Yes” if you are separated, but not divorced.)	Yes	No
At the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year, will you be working on a master’s or doctorate program (such as an MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD, or graduate certificate, etc.)?	Yes	No
Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training?	Yes	No
Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?	Yes	No
Do you have children who will receive more than half of their support from you between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024?	Yes	No
Do you have dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you, now and through June 30, 2024?	Yes	No
At anytime since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care or were you a dependent or ward of the court?	Yes	No
As determined by a court in your state of legal residence are you or were you an emancipated minor? Answer “yes” if you can provide a copy of a court’s decision indicating that you are/were an emancipated minor.	Yes	No
As determined by a court in your state of legal residence are you or were you in legal guardianship? Answer “yes” if you can provide a copy of a court’s decision indicating that you are/were in legal guardianship.	Yes	No
At any time on or after July 1, 2022, did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless?	Yes	No
At any time on or after July 1, 2022, did the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless?	Yes	No
At any time on or after July 1, 2022, did the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?	Yes	No

I certify that all information provided on this appeal and any attachments are complete and accurate. False statements will be cause for denial, reduction and/or repayment of financial aid.

Signature:

Date:

**Instructions for Completing the FAFSA or CADAA
for Students Submitting Dependency Status Appeal**

1. Complete and submit a FAFSA online at studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa or a CADAA at dream.csac.ca.gov .
2. Under **Your Dependency Status** section, select *I am unable to provide parental information* and continue the process until you have submitted your FAFSA or CA Dream Act Application. Your application will be incomplete, an EFC will not be calculated and you will not be awarded financial aid at this time.
3. Complete and submit the attached CSU, Chico 2023/2024 Dependency Status Appeal to our office. Make sure all relevant documentation is attached.

After Filing the FAFSA or CA Dream Act Application and Submitting Your Appeal:

- **If your appeal is approved**, we will notify you and submit a correction to the Central Processing System with all appropriate dependency override codes. Your financial aid will be packaged based on independent status.
- **If your appeal is not approved**, we will notify you about our decision. In order to receive a financial aid package, you **MUST** provide parent financial information and signatures on your FAFSA or CA Dream Act Application. Return to studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa or dream.csac.ca.gov, select “Correction,” and provide all necessary information, including all required parent information and signatures.