

Howard University
Office of Financial Aid, Scholarships and Student Employment
2400 Sixth Street, N.W., Suite 205, Washington, DC 20059

INDEPENDENT STATUS PETITION
2008-2009

THE DEADLINE FOR FILING THIS FORM IS APRIL 16, 2009.

Name (Last, First, MI)	Social Security Number	Howard University ID Number
Address (Street or P.O. Box, Apartment Number, City, State, Zip Code)		Telephone Number

INDEPENDENT STATUS DEFINITION

The federally mandated formula used to determine your financial need is based on the premise that your family has the primary responsibility to pay for your education. The federal government has specific standards to determine who has **dependent status** (you **must** include parental information on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid [FAFSA]), and who has **independent status** and not required to provide parental information when applying for financial aid.

To have independent status, you must meet at least one of the following conditions:

- You were born before January 1, 1985
- You were a ward of the court until age 18, or both parents are deceased
- You are a veteran of the United States Armed Forces
- You are married
- You have a legal dependent other than a spouse
- You are enrolled in a graduate or a professional program

If you were considered independent for financial aid purposes at a previous school, you do not automatically qualify for independent status at Howard University. Please follow petition procedures outlined in the following section.

PETITION PROCEDURES FOR EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

Exceptions to the federal dependency definition will be made on a case-by-case basis. If you do not meet any of the conditions for independent status outlined above, you may appeal your status if you believe you have extenuating circumstances. **Be advised that parental disagreements and refusal of the parent or stepparent to provide support or information are not considered unusual circumstances for the purpose of achieving independent status for financial aid.** Being self-supporting, in and of itself, is not a sufficient reason for independent status.

If you feel that you have extenuating circumstances that would allow you to receive financial aid as an independent student, please submit the following information to the Office of Financial Aid:

1. **A Personal letter describing your extenuating circumstances.**
2. **Third party documentation supporting the extenuating circumstances you described.** Examples of adequate documentation: notarized statements from family members who can attest to your extenuating circumstances, court documents, case worker, clergy person, or other professionals who confirm that your situation warrants independent status.
3. **Signed copies of your 2007 Federal Tax Return and W2's.** You must have sufficient income to support yourself.
4. **Completed 2008-2009 Independent Verification Worksheet**
5. **Any additional supporting documentation** pertinent to your circumstance.

Signature	Date Signed
Email address	Mobile Telephone Number