

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

INDEPENDENT STATUS PETITION
2009-2010

THE DEADLINE FOR FILING THIS FORM IS APRIL 16, 2010

Last Name, please print	First Name, please print	Howard University ID Number
Address (Street or P.O. Box, Apartment Number, City, State, Zip Code) please print		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 **independent status** and not required to provide parental information when applying for financial aid.

If you do not meet any of the conditions for independent status outlined on the 2009-2010 FAFSA, you may appeal your status if you believe you have extenuating circumstances. Exceptions to the federal independent definition will be made on a **case-by-case basis**

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 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

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 signed statement describing your extenuating circumstances.**
2. **Notarized 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, or signed statements on **official letterhead** from a high school counselor, case worker, clergy person, or other professionals who can confirm that your situation warrants independent status consideration.
3. **Signed copies of your 2008 Federal Tax Return and W2's.** You must have sufficient income to support yourself.
4. **Completed 2009-2010 Independent Verification Worksheet.**
5. **Any additional supporting documentation** pertinent to your circumstance.

Note: *You will be notified by email when a decision has been made on your petition.*

Signature	Date Signed
Email address	Mobile Telephone Number