Financial aid regulations, set by the Department of Education, indicate the family has primary responsibility for contributing to the educational costs of students. A dependent student is one who was born after January 1, 1998, not a veteran, not married, not a graduate student, not an orphan or ward of the court, and does not have dependents. However, the Financial Aid Office understands there may be family situations that warrant a dependency override for extreme circumstances, such as abuse, neglect, abandonment, or refugee status.

Please submit the following to the Financial Aid Office for consideration of a dependency override:

- **PERSONAL STATEMENT**
  Explain why you should be considered independent. Describe the circumstances of the separation from your parents and the status of your relationship with them now.

- **SECONDARY LETTER**
  Provide a letter from a relative or friend who is aware of your family’s situation. The letter must state the writer’s address, phone number, and relationship to you, along with his/her account of the events that led to your separation from your parents, and the nature of your relationship with your parents as he/she understands it to be currently.

- **PROFESSIONAL LETTER**
  Provide a letter from a professional adult to verify the family circumstances you described in your personal statement. The letter must be signed, dated, and on his/her company’s letterhead. Professional adults include, but are not limited to, clergy members, guidance counselors, teachers, doctors, family counselors, mental health professionals, and law enforcement officers.

- **INCOME DOCUMENTATION**
  Provide a certified Tax Return Transcript from the IRS (1-800-908-9946) of your 2019 Federal tax return, 2019 W-2 forms, and/or proof of untaxed income received in 2019.

- **OTHER**

All information you provide will be held in the strictest confidence.