Dear Student:

If you believe you have unusual circumstances that would make you an independent student even though you are considered a dependent student for financial aid purposes, you must complete the attached dependency status questionnaire. Please answer all questions on the form completely.

In addition to the questionnaire, you must also write us a letter detailing your request to be considered an independent student for financial aid purposes. Be as specific as possible in explaining your personal situation and why the College should consider your status as independent.

Attach your questionnaire, your letter, and any supporting materials or documentation to this letter and return it to the aid office. You should complete this process **BEFORE** you mail in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

We will review your request for independent student status and inform you of our decision.

If you have any questions, please meet with a member of our professional staff.

Sincerely,

Sharon L. Thomas
Director of Financial Aid

SLT/jdc
# MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE WORKSHEET

1. **Student Name:** _____________________  **SSN:** __________________________
   **Date of Birth:** _____________________  **Today’s Date:** _____________________

2. **Parent(s) names(s):**
   - **Mother:** ________________________  **Father:** ________________________

3. **Parent(s) address:**

4. **Last date lived with one or both parents:**
   - **Month:** _________  **Year:** _______

5. **Please state the main reason why you do not live with parents. Be specific.**

6. **Do you have any contact with your mother or father?**
   - **Yes_____**  **No_____**
   **Please explain.**

7. **Have you received any financial support from either of your parents in the past 2 tax years?**
   - **Yes ____**  **No ____**
   **If yes, how much:** $______________

8. **Provide the following information about your expenses in the base year and estimated year. (If any amounts are zero, please explain):**

   **Monthly:**
   - **Housing:**
     - **Own _________**  **Rent__________**  **$______________**
   - **Food:**
     **______________**
   - **Transportation (car payment, insurance, gas, maintenance):**
     **______________**
   - **Utilities (gas, electric, oil, telephone, cable):**
     **______________**
   - **Child care and/or dependent care:**
     **______________**
   - **Personal (clothing, entertainment):**
     **______________**
   - **Other:**
     **______________**

   **Total monthly expenses:**  **$______________**

   **Yearly expenses (Total monthly expenses X 12 months):**  **$______________**

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*I certify that the information provided on this form is accurate and true to the best of my knowledge.*

__________________________  ___________

Please return to:

**Middlesex Community College**
**Director of Financial Aid**
**100 Training Hill Rd.**
**Middletown, CT 06457**
MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Financial Aid Office

POLICY ON DEPENDENCY OVERRIDES

One of the important questions in determining financial aid eligibility is whether the student is independent (self-supporting) or dependent (presumed to be not yet independent financially of his/her parents). All MxCC financial aid programs use the dependency criteria established by law for the federal student aid programs. Under these criteria, students are considered self-supporting if they meet any one of these conditions:

- Age 24 or older on January 1 of the academic year;
- Veteran of active duty in the military;
- An orphan or a ward of the court; (must be documented)
- Enrolled in a graduate program;
- Have a legal dependent other than a spouse;
- Married.

MxCC, like other colleges, has the authority to make exceptions to these criteria in truly unusual circumstances. (This is referred to as a "dependency override," and enables the student to apply without parent financial data.) Since the law clearly intends that students under age 24 apply for financial aid as dependent students (that is, with parents' financial information), MxCC will NOT grant a dependency override in the following situations:

1. The parents are unwilling to help pay for education, or the parents refuse to provide financial information on the financial aid application, (FAFSA).
2. The student has lived with one or both parents during any part of the last two tax periods.
3. The student was claimed by parent(s) in the previous two-year period on their Federal tax returns.
4. The student has received financial support from their parents in the previous two-year period.

EVEN IF THE STUDENT IS IN FACT SELF-SUPPORTING, THE STUDENT AID PROGRAMS REQUIRE PARENTS' DATA ON THE AID APPLICATION UNLESS THE STUDENT MEETS ONE OF THE ABOVE CONDITIONS.

The student must demonstrate either financial self-support or document any "special circumstances" which may exist.

Documentation for financial self-sufficiency must include the following:

1. Complete the MxCC Dependency Override Worksheet.
2. Documentation that the student has lived independently for a period of at least two years, prior to the start of the academic year for which they are applying for financial assistance. (i.e., copy of lease, utility bills)
3. Documentation that the parents have not claimed the student on their federal tax returns for the previous two-year period. (Copies required)
4. A statement from the student regarding current living circumstances.
5. Copies of student's Federal tax returns for prior two years. (Including W-2's)
6. Any other documentation deemed necessary.

Documentation for "special circumstances" must include the following:

1. Letters from individuals who have knowledge of the student's family circumstances such as: clergy, high school administrators, family-members, etc.
2. Letter from the student outlining the circumstances leading to the current living arrangement.