

Kalamazoo Valley Community College Dependency Status Appeal – 2025-2026

Student _____ Valley ID # V00 _____

Phone _____ Date of Birth _____

There are federal requirements that a student must meet to qualify for financial aid as an independent student. If you do not meet one of the criteria, you will be evaluated as a dependent student, and your parents must provide income and asset information on the FAFSA.

This form is for dependent students who do not meet the federal criteria for “independency” status as outlined on the FAFSA, but who would like to have their unique family circumstances reviewed in order to be considered an independent student for financial aid purposes. Decisions made by the Student Financial Services Office are final.

You may qualify for a dependency status override if you are estranged from your parent/parents due to abuse, family alcoholism, drug abuse or other unusual circumstances beyond your control.

Four conditions that, individually or in combination with one another, **do not qualify** as unusual circumstances for a dependency status appeal:

- Parents refusing to contribute to the student’s education.
- Parents unwillingness to provide information on the FAFSA or for verification.
- Parents not claiming the student as a dependent for income-tax purposes.
- Students demonstrating total self-sufficiency or living independently.

Dependency Status Appeal Requirements

1. Complete your 2025-2026 FAFSA at www.fafsa.gov.
2. Submit a signed personal statement detailing your current relationship with each of your parents and what led to the estrangement.
3. Submit supporting documentation to substantiate the reasons for your dependency override request. Appropriate documentation can include:
 - Death Certificate
 - Documentation to confirm institutionalization or incarceration
 - Protection or Restraining Order
 - A signed letter from a third party (H.S. counselor, College Counselor, Social Service agency, Pastor, Mental Health Professional, Law Enforcement etc.) The letter must verify the family circumstance you described in your personal statement and must be on official letterhead and signed.

C. Student Certification

By signing this worksheet, I certify that all the information reported is complete and correct. I further understand that purposely giving false or misleading information regarding eligibility for Federal or State aid may result in fines, jail terms or both. **Required documents are scanned then destroyed and not available in the original format.**

Student Signature _____ Date _____