



FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

1537 University blvd.
Morrilton, AR 72110

(501) 977-2055
1-800-264-1094
Fax: (501) 977-2123

www.uaccm.edu

UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES - DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE

The FAFSA will determine your dependency status based on a number of questions. If you answer 'no' to all of the dependency questions on the FAFSA, you are considered a dependent student for financial aid purposes and must provide your parent information on the FAFSA. If there are unusual circumstances where you cannot provide your parent information on the FAFSA, such as: abuse, neglect, or abandonment, the Financial Aid Office may be able to perform a dependency override to make you an independent student for financial aid purposes. This would make you eligible for financial aid without parent information on the FAFSA.

We cannot override dependency in cases where:

- Parents refuse to contribute financially to your education
- Unwillingness of parents to provide information
- Students being financially independent
- Parents not claiming a student as a dependent on their income taxes

REQUESTING A DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE DUE TO UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES

If you would like the Financial Aid Office to review your unusual circumstances to see if a dependency override would be appropriate, please submit the following:

- If you have not done so already, complete your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the appropriate year
- Provide the following statements to the Financial Aid Office:
 - A typed personal statement that explains your unusual circumstances and why you are unable to provide your parent information on the FAFSA (at a minimum, include what the unusual circumstances are, the timeline of the relationship with your parents, and what type of contact you have with your parents now)
 - Additional letters of support (preferably two) from professionals who are familiar with your situation (i.e. therapists, school counselors, members of the clergy, etc). If a professional is not aware of your circumstances, please include letters of support from someone that is aware of your circumstances; have them include their contact information and relationship to you on the letter.
 - Any additional documents that are relevant to your situation

Once all documents have been completed and submitted, the Financial Aid Office will review the documents and determine your dependency status. A review typically takes between 10 business days from the date when all necessary documentation has been received. Once processed, the student will be notified of the final determination of their dependency status as well as an initial or revised financial aid offer, if all other requirements to receive a financial aid offer have been satisfied. During peak processing times, the request may take longer than the typical timeframe to be reviewed, but no longer than 30 days from the date when all of the above documentation has been received (or from the date the student enrolls, whichever is later).

SUBSEQUENT YEARS

Beginning with the 2023-24 award year, any student who was approved for a dependency override and made independent for financial aid due to unusual circumstances will continue to be independent for each subsequent award year at UACCM unless the student informs us that their circumstances have changed or we have conflicting information about the student's independence. Students must still submit their FAFSA each year, but should not need to take additional action to be considered an independent student each year.