

NORTH CENTRAL MICHIGAN COLLEGE
FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

Unusual Circumstance Request Form
2026-2027

An **independent student** is defined by federal financial aid regulations as someone who fits into one or more of ten specific categories. Under these categories, a student is independent if he or she can answer "YES" to at least one of the following:

1. Were you born before January 1, 2003?
2. Are you married as of the date you complete the FAFSA?
3. Will you be working toward a master's or doctorate degree (such as M.A., MBA, M.D., J.D., Ph.D., Ed.D., etc.)?
4. Do you have children who receive more than half their support from you?
5. Do you have dependents (other than spouse/children) who live with you and receive more than half their support from you?
6. Are you currently servicing on active duty (other than training) in the U.S. Armed Forces?
7. Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces or attended a service academy and released under a condition other than dishonorable?
8. At any time since you turned age 13, were both of your parents deceased, were you in foster care, or were you a ward or dependent of the court?
9. Are you an emancipated minor or are in legal guardianship as determined by the court in your state of legal residence?
10. Are you an unaccompanied youth who is homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?

The law allows you an opportunity to petition the financial aid administrator for an unusual circumstance. The financial aid administrators may grant overrides for students with "unusual circumstances" on a case-by-case basis and must document the "unusual circumstances". Once processed the unusual circumstance may carry over from year to year at that institution. If a student is no longer in an unusual circumstance, they would need to notify the Financial Aid office. The U.S. Department of Education recognizes examples of "unusual circumstances" to be, but are not limited to, an abusive family environment or abandonment by parents.

According to the Department of Education, an Unusual Circumstance **cannot** be performed for the following reasons:

- Parents refuse to contribute to student's education.
- Parents are unwilling to provide information on FAFSA or for verification.
- Student demonstrates total self-sufficiency.
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Please submit the following documentation with this form:

1. A typed, detailed letter explaining in your own words your "unusual circumstances".
2. Two (2) letters of support from non-relatives (e.g., proprietor, employer, teacher or clergy), which can confirm the circumstances in your letter of explanation. The letters of support should also include how they know you and how long they have known you.
3. All other documentation you believe will help demonstrate your independent status.

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

By signing, I am certifying that this request is subject to the professional judgment of the North Central Michigan College Financial Aid Office. This request may be subject to further documentation and all subsequent decisions are final.

Return form to: The Financial Aid Office Located in the Borra Learning Center

Email: financialaid@ncmich.edu

Phone: 231-348-6698