



2024-25 REQUEST FOR INDEPENDENT STATUS

STUDENT INFORMATION

Last Name:	First Name:
Student ID #:	Email:

The student financial aid system is based on the premise that your parent(s) have the primary responsibility to assist you with your college education until you are at least 24 years old, married, or have a child of your own that you financially support - even if that assistance is only to provide their information for your FAFSA.

Federal regulations allow a Lower Columbia College financial aid administrators to consider extraordinary cases on an individual basis. In unusual circumstances, using professional judgment, a financial aid administrator *may* determine that you should be considered independent for financial aid eligibility based on information you provide. This decision is final and cannot be appealed.

Per Department of Education rules, the following conditions **do not** qualify as unusual circumstances and **cannot** be used as reasons to make a student independent from their parent(s):

- Your parent(s) are refusing to monetarily contribute your education
- Your parent(s) are unwilling to provide information on the FAFSA or for income verification
- Your parent(s) do not claim you as a dependent for income tax purposes
- You live on your own and are financially self sufficient

If any of these conditions apply to your situation, you cannot be declared independent from your parent(s). However, you may be eligible for a Direct Unsubsidized Loan only. If you wish to be considered for a Direct Unsubsidized Loan, submit the [Parent Refusal to Provide Information](#) form to the Financial Aid Office.

If you have any questions about any of the scenarios presented below, please contact the [Financial Aid Office / One-Stop Center](#) before making any changes to your FAFSA application.

All students must attach a **Letter of Explanation**, detailing why this request is being made and the circumstances that occurred to support this request being approved by the Financial Aid Office.

Attach Letter of Explanation

If requested by the Financial Aid Office, your Verification worksheet and all supporting documents must be completed and reviewed <i>prior</i> to submitting this form.		
Select the Unusual Circumstance you are requesting:	Required Documentation:	Attachments
<input type="checkbox"/> Married since filing the FAFSA	<input type="checkbox"/> Marriage certificate – AND – <input type="checkbox"/> Add spouse to the FAFSA application, including any needed consent and income information	 – AND –
<input type="checkbox"/> Abandonment by parents, abusive family environment that threatens your health or safety, or are unable to locate both of your parents	<input type="checkbox"/> Your detailed and signed statement regarding the nature of the relationship with your parents, who you live with, and how you support yourself (include in Letter of Explanation) – AND – <input type="checkbox"/> Official letter or documentation from one of the following that can attest to your situation with firsthand knowledge: Counseling professional for which you have received ongoing treatment, school official, teacher, clergy, doctor, police reports, court reports, or legal documents from the court	Letter of Explanation – AND –
<input type="checkbox"/> Unaccompanied Youth/Homeless. Meaning you lack permanent, consistent, and adequate housing. Includes, temporarily living with other people with nowhere else to go, living in substandard housing (no water or electricity, living in emergency or transitional shelter, living in motels or campgrounds, cars, parks, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, or any public or private place not designed for humans to live)	<input type="checkbox"/> Letter from school district liaison, homeless shelter, homeless service provider/agency, financial administrator from another college, off campus mental health professional or social worker, doctors, or clergy	
<input type="checkbox"/> Both parents deceased since completing the FAFSA	<input type="checkbox"/> Death certificates and/or obituary notices	



2024-25 REQUEST FOR INDEPENDENT STATUS

STUDENT INFORMATION

Student Name:	Student ID #:
----------------------	----------------------

<input type="checkbox"/> Had a child born since completing the FAFSA, and the child will receive more than half of their support from the student between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025	<input type="checkbox"/> Proof of income of at least \$350.00 per month (does not include financial aid) or TANF or other agency statement of income - AND - <input type="checkbox"/> A copy of the child's birth certificate	 - AND -
<input type="checkbox"/> Gained custody of a dependent, who will receive more than half of their support from the student between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025	<input type="checkbox"/> Court Documentation showing you have been appointed the dependent's guardian and are financially responsible for their care for the remainder of the aid year	

I certify that the facts presented on this and the attached documents are true and correct.

Student's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Lower Columbia College does not discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates, as required by Title IX, including in admission and employment. Lower Columbia College provides equal opportunity in education and employment and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, citizenship or immigration status, age, perceived or actual physical or mental disability, pregnancy, genetic information, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, creed, religion, veteran or military status, or use of a trained guide dog or service animal as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act and ADA Amendment Act, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act and Washington State's Law Against Discrimination, Chapter 49.60 RCW and their implementing regulations. All inquiries regarding compliance with Title IX, access, equal opportunity and/or grievance procedures should be directed to Vice President of Foundation, HR & Legal Affairs, 1600 Maple Street, PO Box 3010, Longview, WA 98632, title9@lowercolumbia.edu, Phone number, (360) 442-2120, Phone number/TTY (800) 833-6388. The notice of nondiscrimination is located at lowercolumbia.edu/disclosure/non-discrimination.