

2025-2026 Petition for Independent Status

Purpose

This form is used to gather information regarding unusual circumstances that warrant the re-evaluation of your dependency status. In order to make exceptions to federal/state regulations, your appeal must be detailed and provide accurate verifiable documentation. Please only submit this petition if you have already completed and submitted your 2025-2026 FAFSA or Dream Act application. If your petition is denied, you will be instructed to provide parental information on your FAFSA or Dream Act application.

Policies

This appeal is for students who have unusual circumstances that prevent them from contacting their parents or contacting their parents might pose a risk to the students

You may be experiencing unusual circumstances if you:

- Left home due to an abusive or threatening environment;
- Are abandoned by or estranged from your parents;
- Have refugee or asylee status and are separated from your parents, or your parents are displaced in a foreign country;
- Are a victim of human trafficking;
- Are incarcerated, or your parents are incarcerated, and contact with them would pose a risk to the you; or
- Are otherwise unable to contact or locate your parents.

The following circumstances are not unusual circumstances and will require parental information on FAFSA or Dream Act application:

- Parents refusing to contribute to college education
- Parents unwilling to provide information on your financial aid application (i.e. FAFSA or California Dream Act Application);
- Parents do not claim student on income taxes
- Student is financially independent of parents

**The California Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act ("CANRA"), codified at California Penal Code §§ 11164-11174.3, requires that employers of Mandated Reporters (as defined in the Act) promote identification and reporting of child abuse or neglect. It is the policy of the University of California to comply with its obligations under the Act; to require that all University employees and administrators who are Mandated Reporters make required reports to child protection or law enforcement agencies; and more broadly to encourage all members of the University community who observe, have actual knowledge of, or reasonably suspect child abuse or neglect at a University facility or perpetrated by University personnel to promptly report the concern to appropriate external and University officials.*

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Student Last Name _____

Student First Name _____

MI _____

UID Number _____

Check this box if you plan to enroll for summer 2025 (Separate Summer Aid Application is required)

Section A. Housing and Income Information

1. Where do you currently live?

With Relatives On Campus Off Campus

a. Last date you lived at home with your parents (mm/dd/yy)? _____

b. Have your parents provided you with support in the last 12 months (support includes cash, housing, food, gifts, medical insurance, loans, college costs, etc.)? No Yes If yes, please list type and amount.

c. Type	Amount
A. _____	\$ _____
B. _____	\$ _____

2. List your 2023 income

A. Work: <input type="checkbox"/> I have attached a copy of my 2023 IRS Tax Return Transcript. <input type="checkbox"/> I have not and will not file a Federal Income Tax return for 2023, but have attached my W-2's. <input type="checkbox"/> I did not work at all during 2023.	\$
B. Untaxed Sources (for example: child support received, Veterans non-education benefits, tax exempt interest income, payments to tax deferred pension and savings plans, etc.):	\$
C. Financial Aid (attach a copy of your Financial Aid Notification letter if you attended a school different than UCLA for the previous academic year):	\$
TOTAL	\$

Section B: Supporting Documentation

To document your unusual circumstances and relationship with your parents, you are required to provide at least two of the following:

A *signed* statement from a professional: counselor, social worker, therapist, member of the clergy, etc. on an **official letterhead** documenting the existence of my unusual circumstances.

Official documents to support your appeal (i.e. police reports/proof of incarcerated parent or legal documents).

A *signed* statement from a witness (can be a friend or relative, etc.) with comprehensive knowledge regarding the existence of the unusual circumstances. This statement must be provided with your petition.

Section C: Personal Statement

Provide detailed explanation of the unusual circumstances that you believe warrant review of your dependency status. Attach additional pages if needed.

Section D: Signature and certification statement

Please sign and return this completed form and all supporting documentation to the Financial Aid & Scholarships office. Failure to do so will delay your financial aid process. Unsigned or incomplete forms will not be processed.

I certify that all information reported on this form is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I have also attached all documentation as required in the instructions. I understand that purposely falsifying information may lead to cancellation of my aid and prevent me from receiving financial aid in future academic years.

Student Signature (*electronic signature is not acceptable*)

Date

HOW TO SUBMIT

Please submit this appeal form and supporting documentation via the [MyUCLA Message Center](#) under the “Financial Aid: Newly Admitted-Submit Documents” queue.