

MOUNT ALOYSIUS COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE PETITION FOR INDEPENDENT STATUS 2023-2024

The US Congress and Department of Education determine the criteria for whether a student is considered dependent or independent of their parents for financial aid purposes. Generally, how an applicant responds to “**Step Three**” on the FAFSA determines their dependency status.

The questions in “Step Three” are:

- Were you born before January 1, 2000?
- Will you be working on a degree beyond a bachelor’s degree in school year 2023/2024?
- As of today, are you married? (Answer yes if you are separated, but not divorced.)
- When you were age 13 or older, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care or were you a dependent/ward of the court?
- Are you a veteran of the US Armed Forces?
- Do you have children who receive more than half of their support from you?
- Do you have dependents (other than children or a spouse) that live with you and receive more than half of their support from you, now and through June 30, 2024?
- Are you currently on active duty in the US Armed Forces for purposes other than training?
- As of today, are you in legal guardianship as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?
- As of today, are you an emancipated minor as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?
- At any time on or after July 1, 2022, did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless?
- At any time on or after July 1, 2022, did the director of an emergency shelter program funded by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless?
- At any time on or after July 1, 2022, did the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?

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If you do not meet one of the above conditions, but still feel there are extenuating circumstances which might warrant you being considered independent of your parents, you may explain those circumstances in a petition to your Financial Aid Officer.

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE COMPLETING THIS FORM

The basic premise underlying student financial aid is that it is primarily the responsibility of the student and his or her family to pay educational costs. When family resources are insufficient, financial aid may be awarded to supplement the resources of the student’s family to help pay educational expenses. By petitioning, you are asking us to relieve your parents of the responsibility for using their resources to pay part of your college costs. Only very extenuating circumstances will make it reasonable to approve such a petition. **Having sufficient resources to pay your own expenses is NOT considered an extenuating circumstance for determining dependency status.**

For your petition to be considered, you must not have been claimed as a tax exemption by any parent or stepparent in 2022. Your parent(s)/stepparent(s) may not have used you as the basis to file income taxes as “head of household,” and you may not have lived with your parent(s) or stepparent(s) during 2021 or 2022.

Note: Submission of the FAFSA to the US Department of Education is partly for the purpose of determining what level of contribution should be expected from the family. For low-income families, this contribution is often zero or minimal, and a change in dependency status may have little influence on the student’s eligibility for financial aid.

To begin the petition process, please answer the questions listed on the reverse side of this form. Then submit this form, **WITH YOUR PETITION STATEMENT ATTACHED**, to the Financial Aid Office.

1.

Amount of financial support did you receive from your parents in 2022? \$	Amount of financial support will you receive from your parents in 2023? \$
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2.

What other support do you receive from your parent(s) or step-parent(s)? Examples: health or auto insurance, room and board, clothing, use of a vehicle, etc. Please identify the type of support and its approximate value:	
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
Total	\$

3.

Do your parents/stepparents own the property in which you reside? (circle)	Yes	No
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Prior to making a final decision regarding your petition, your financial aid officer may request that you submit additional information, including copies of Federal Income Tax returns for both you and your parents or stepparents.

I hereby certify that the information I have provided is true and correct.

Applicant’s Printed Name	Applicant’s Signature
Applicant’s Social Security No.	Applicant’s Telephone No.
Applicant’s E-mail Address	Date Signed

Your explanation of extenuating circumstances must be attached to this petition!

**MOUNT ALOYSIUS COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE
 PETITION FOR INDEPENDENT STATUS
 2023-2024**

PART 2

The Financial Aid Office is considering your petition for independent status. In order to complete your petition, please complete the Expense Schedule below. Return this form to our office with the following documentation:

- Parents current address
- Signed copies of your parents’ (or step-parents’) 2022 federal income tax returns
- Signed copy of your 2022 federal income tax return
- Documentation of any income or resources received in 2022 that are not on your tax return
- Documentation of where you have lived since January, 2022 (e.g., signed lease agreements, housing contract, etc.)
- A letter stating your extenuating circumstances.

EXPENSES	JANUARY-DECEMBER, 2022
Housing	\$
Food	
Transportation	
Utilities	
Personal	
Tuition/Fees	
Books/Supplies	
Other	
TOTAL	\$

If you entered “0” for any of the items listed above, please explain:

I hereby certify that the information I have submitted is true and correct.

Student’s Printed Name	Student’s Signature	Social Security No.
E-Mail Address	Telephone No.	Date Signed