

## 2015-2016 INDEPENDENT STATUS CERTIFICATION

Federal student aid programs are based on the concept that it is primarily your and your family's responsibility to pay for your education. Your answers to questions on the financial aid application determine whether you are considered a dependent or independent student. Students cannot be considered independent for any of the following reasons: not living with your parent, not being claimed by your parent on tax forms, parent's refusal to provide their information, or the student's self-sufficiency.

**INSTRUCTIONS:** After review of your financial aid application, it has been determined that you indicated that you qualify for one of the special independency considerations. Furthermore, it has been determined that this is the only criterion which is qualifying you as an independent student for financial aid purposes. As a result, we must certify your independent status. Please complete the information below and return to the Contra Costa College Office of Financial Assistance, along with any required documentation to demonstrate your status (as indicated below).

### **SECTION I: STUDENT INFORMATION**

Last Name	First Name	M.I.
Student ID		Phone Number

### **SECTION II: INDEPENDENT STATUS**

Check ONE (1) box for the status that applies to you and attach the required documentation.

<b>Independent Status Eligibility (check one)</b>	<b>Acceptable Documentation Options</b>
Currently serving on active duty in U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If currently serving in the <b>U.S. Armed Forces</b> or are a <b>National Guards</b> or <b>Reserves</b> enlistee who is on active duty, submit a signed letter from your commanding officer; or</li> <li>• Military order attesting to active duty status</li> </ul>
Veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a copy of your DD-214 confirming the following:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Engaged in active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, National Guard, or Reserves</li> <li>➤ A cadet or midshipman at a service academy</li> <li>➤ Release from service under a condition other than dishonorable discharge</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
At any time since your turned 13, both of your parents were deceased	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copy of both parents' death certificates and your birth certificate. If one parent is deceased and the other parent's whereabouts are unknown, please review Section IV.</li> </ul>
At any time since you turned 13, you were in foster care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copy of official documentation from the court confirming your status in foster care; or</li> <li>• Letter from county Independent Living Skills Program (ILSP) confirming your status in foster care.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <a href="http://www.cocoilp.org">www.cocoilp.org</a> or by phone at 1.800.994.4577</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
At any time since you turned 13, you were a ward of the court.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copy of official documentation from the court confirming your status as a ward of the court. *This means the court determined that your parent(s) were unable to care for you and that the State or the Court took legal custody of you or you were removed from</li> </ul>

		your parent's custody for your protection.
	You are or were an emancipated minor before you reach the age of 18 in your state.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copy of the emancipation documentation from the court confirming your status and effective date(s) of the status. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ May be obtained from county Recorder's Office where petition for emancipation was granted.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	You are or were in a court ordered legal guardianship immediately before you reach the age of 18 in your state.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copy of the court documentation confirming your status in a legal guardianship and the effective date(s) of the legal guardianship status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ May be obtained from county Recorder's Office where petition of legal guardianship was granted.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Note that legal guardianship does not include your parents (even if appointed by the court as your guardians). Also, you cannot be a legal guardian of yourself.</li> </ul>
	You received a determination at any time on or after July 1, 2014, that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or at risk of being homeless.	Completion of Section III by any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your high school or school district liaison</li> <li>• The director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development</li> <li>• The director of a runaway and homeless basic center or transitional living program</li> </ul>

**SECTION III: HOMELESSNESS CERTIFICATION:** To be completed by the high school/district homeless liaison, or the director of an emergency shelter, transitional housing program, homeless youth basic center, or transitional living program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name of Certifying Official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title of Certifying Official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of shelter/program/center

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Certifying Official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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**SECTION IV: DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE**

None of the above special independency considerations apply to me, but I have an unusual family circumstance that makes getting my parent information impossible – **contact the Office of Financial Assistance to inquire about applying for a Dependency Override. Please note:** a parent's unwillingness to provide their information, or a parent's inability to financially contribute, or the student's self-sufficiency, are not considered to be extenuating circumstances for dependency status overrides.

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**SECTION IV: STUDENT CERTIFICATION**

By signing below, I certify that all the information reported on this form above is true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that providing any false statement or misrepresentation will be cause for denial, reduction, withdrawal, and/or repayment of financial aid.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date