**FINANCIAL AID OFFICE**
**2027-2028 Unusual Circumstance Appeal Form**

**STUDENT NAME**_____ STUDENT ID _____
The decision of your appeal will be sent to your EWC email account.

Independent students MUST be able to answer "yes" to at least one of the following:

1. 24 years of age (born before January 1, 2003).
2. Have been admitted to graduate degree program.
3. Are married as of the date the FAFSA was filed.
4. Have children receiving more than half of their support from the student.
5. Have legal dependents (other than spouse or children) receiving more than half of their support from the student.
6. Orphaned or ward of the court or in *legal guardianship.
7. Adopted or in foster care at the age of 13 years or above.
8. Veteran or active duty service person in the US Armed Forces.

*Legal guardianship for the purposes of financial aid independent student status does NOT include involuntary or court ordered placement to juvenile facilities.

Students may have situations that warrant the intervention of the financial aid office in determining their dependency status. You have the right to appeal your dependency status if you believe you have a unique circumstance. Unique circumstances generally include, but are not limited to, third-party documentation of parental abuse, neglect or abandonment. Unique circumstances do **NOT** include:

- Involuntary/court ordered placement in a juvenile facility.
- Your parents' inability, unwillingness, or refusal to assist with your college expenses.
- Your parents no longer claiming you on their tax return.
- You no longer live with your parents.
- You want to pay for your education without assistance from your parents.

**ALL of the following must be submitted for appeal of your dependency status. PLEASE ALLOW 2-4 WEEKS TO REVIEW.**

❑ 2027-2028 FAFSA (Check if completed.) If you have not already done so, please file your FAFSA at https:// studentaid.gov/h/apply- for-aid/fafsa to the best of your ability.

❑ My request to be independent was approved last year and my family situation has not changed. (No supporting documents needed)

❑ I have an unusual family situation, making it difficult to obtain my parents' information. Examples include, but are not limited to: abusive family environment, abandonment, incarceration or institutionalization of both parents, parents lacking the physical or mental capacity to raise a child, parents cannot be located, etc. Must submit the documentation below:

❑ Student 2025 IRS Federal Income Tax Return transcript OR signed copy of your 2025 IRS 1040.

❑ Completed 2027-2028 Dependency Appeal Form

❑ Letter explaining unique circumstances.

❑ Complete the following statement: I am currently living with _____ .

❑ Student sources of income. Check all that apply and attach statements:

- ❑ Social Security benefits
- ❑ Welfare
- ❑ Employment (2025 W2s)
- ❑ Full-time student living off financial aid.
- ❑ Other_____(attach proof)

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- ❑ At least two (2) pieces of third-party documentation of unique circumstance on official letter-head or notarized (check all that apply) **

  - ❑ Legal guardian
  - ❑ Case-worker
  - ❑ Clergy
  - ❑ School Counselor
  - ❑ Court Documents
  - ❑ Therapist
  - ❑ Physician
  - ❑ Other _____

**If a letter from a n independent source cannot be provided, you must give the reason it cannot be provided in your appeal letter. In this case, you may submit a signed letter from another source (Example: Family member) in its place.

Student Signature:_____ Date: _____