

**2008-2009 Student Financial Aid (SFA)
INDEPENDENT Student
Status Request**



| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Student Name _____ | SS# _____ & Student ID _____ |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|

The primary responsibility for financing a college education rests with the student and parents. *Many students feel they are Independent because they are currently living on their own, or because their parents no longer claim them on their income taxes. However, SFA is required by federal law to consider parent information unless the student meets one of the following criteria:*

- be 24 years of age or older by December 31, 2008;
- be a Veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States;
- be serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training;
- be a married individual;
- be an orphan or ward of the court;
- be a graduate student; or
- have legal dependents other than a spouse.

If you are applying for financial aid and do not meet the definition of an Independent student you must apply for financial aid as a Dependent student. If unusual family circumstances exist that make it impossible for you to obtain parent information, our office will review your dependency status.

Before our office will consider any changes regarding dependency status, you must complete the appropriate sections of this form and provide supporting documentation. This office may request additional information for consideration of your review.

Upon submitting all documents, your request for Independent status will be reviewed by a Financial Aid Committee. Written notification of the Committee's decision will be mailed to you within 10 - 15 business days. All Committee decisions are final.

Resource Information (to be completed by *all* students)

Where did you live in 2007? ___ off campus ___ with parents ___ with relatives
 Where will you live in 2008? ___ off campus ___ with parents ___ with relatives

Attach completed FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA) (if not already submitted), along with a copy of your 2007 U.S. Income Tax Return; AND, list all types, amounts & sources of your annual income for 2007 (i.e. wages, interest income, gifts from other people, AFDC, Social Security benefits, child support, etc.).

| | <u>Amount?</u> | <u>From what source?</u> |
|------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| • 2007 work income | \$ _____ | <u>Employer</u> = _____ |
| • 2007 untaxed income | \$ _____ | _____ |
| • 2007 other resources | \$ _____ | _____ |
| • 2007 Student Financial Aid | \$ _____ | _____ |

List the amount of financial (monetary) support you currently receive from your parent(s)? \$ _____

Did/will they provide your health insurance or car insurance, etc. (please clarify)? Yes/No _____

(over)

COMPLETE ONLY THE SECTION WHICH PERTAINS TO YOUR CIRCUMSTANCE

A. Extenuating Family Circumstances

We may be able to override your dependent status if unusual family circumstances exist that makes it impossible for you to have contact with your parents. **Examples are:** surviving parent is in prison or hospitalized; you have been physically abused by parent(s); your parent(s) live out of the country and you are unable to maintain contact with them; or other extraordinary circumstances that may warrant our consideration. If your family situation involves an extreme situation such as those described above, you may appeal your dependent status by submitting all the following:

- A personal letter of explanation describing your relationship with your parent(s). Both parents must be addressed in the letter. Include the circumstances that prevent you from obtaining parent information, and your means of support.
- Two (2) notarized "Independent Student Status Documentation Statement" forms from two (2) different third parties who verify the circumstances that prevent you from maintaining contact with your parents. The letters must be from other adult relatives &/or other professionals (i.e., clergy, teachers, counselors, or social workers).

--OR--

B. Received Financial Aid as an Independent Student in Prior Years

Were you determined by a financial aid administrator to be independent for financial aid in the previous academic year? If so, answer all the following questions:

When were you last claimed by your parents as a federal income tax exemption? _____ Year
 When did you last live with your parent(s)? _____ Year
 When did you last receive financial support from your parent(s)? _____ Year

If an Independent student status was determined at an institution other than GCC, provide copies of the original documents submitted at the previous institution or new documentation verifying your circumstances.

Provide a brief description of your current situation and relationship with your parents. Explain why your previous Independent status was approved. _____

--AND--

Certification Statement (to be completed by *all* students)

I certify that the information submitted is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Student's Signature Date

Local Address City, State Zip Telephone