The Federal methodology assumes that the primary responsibility for paying for college costs rest with the family. Federal regulations permit the Office of Financial Aid to exercise professional judgment in determining if unusual circumstances exist and can be documented to make the student independent for federal financial aid purposes. The parents’ unwillingness to assist the student is not, in and of itself, grounds for a dependency override. Nor can a school perform a dependency override because the parents are unwilling to provide information on the application or information needed for verification. This determination is made on a case by case basis and must be verified each award year. **The following reasons DO NOT merit approval for Dependency Override:**

1. Parents refusing to contribute to the student’s education;
2. Parents unwilling to provide information on the application for Financial Aid or verification;
3. Parents not claiming the student as a dependent for tax purposes;
4. Students who merely demonstrate self-sufficiency without having other unusual circumstances.

The Office of Financial Aid will review your petition to determine if your circumstances warrant and your documentation supports a declaration of independence.

**Instructions for New Application**
- Complete 2016-2017 FAFSA with your information.
- Complete the Verification Worksheet, Credit Benefits Worksheet and submit required documentation.
- Complete the Independent Student Appeals form.
- Attach documentation of 2016 income (copy of your most recent pay stub from 2016 employment).
- Written statements why you should be considered independent
- Written statement and/or verification from parents as to why they are unable to contribute to your educational expenses.
- Copy of all bills in your name for which you are responsible (be sure to include lease/deed).
- If you have no contact with your parents, you must submit 3 statements from reputable people aware of the relationship. These must either be notarized statements or presented on official letterhead.

**Appeal for Independence continued on reverse side:**
Complete the following statements:

1. Did your parents claim you on their most recent Federal Tax Return? ___________

2. Do you live at home? _______ (You must answer yes even if you pay your parents rent).

3. How long have you been supporting yourself? _______ Years _______ Months

4. Your total expected income for 2016? $ __________

5. Your expected expenses for 2016? $ __________

This information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Students’ signature: ___________________________ Date: __________

Please return this form along with the required documentation to the Office of Financial Aid at Armstrong

Office use only:

Reason for approval/denial:

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Financial Aid Staff Signature Date

2016-2017 Appeal for Independent Student Status