

## INDEPENDENT STATUS APPEAL 2011-2012

**THE DEADLINE FOR FILING THIS FORM IS APRIL 30, 2012**

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ECC ID NUMBER
ADDRESS (STREET, APARTMENT NUMBER, CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE)		TELEPHONE NUMBER

### INDEPENDENT STATUS DEFINITION

The federally mandated formula used to determine your financial need is based on the premise that your family has the primary responsibility to pay for your education. The federal government has specific standards to determine who has **independent status** and not required to provide parental information when applying for financial aid.

**If you do not meet any of the conditions for independent status outlined on the 2011-2012 FAFSA, you may appeal your status if you believe you have extenuating circumstances. Exceptions to the federal independent definition are made on a case-by-case basis.**

**Be advised that parental disagreements and refusal of the parent or stepparent to provide support or information are not considered extenuating circumstances for the purpose of achieving independent status for financial aid. Being self-supporting, in and of itself, is not a sufficient reason for independent status.**

If you were considered independent for financial aid purposes at a previous school, you do not automatically qualify for independent status at Essex County College. Please follow the appeal procedures outlined in the following section.

### APPEAL PROCEDURES FOR EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

If you feel that you have extenuating circumstances that would allow you to receive financial aid as an independent student, please submit the following information to the Office of Financial Aid. Appeals submitted without all required documentation will be denied.

1. **Complete and sign the attached form describing your extenuating circumstances.**
2. **Provide third party documentation supporting the extenuating circumstances you described. Examples of adequate documentation:** statements from family members who can attest to your extenuating circumstances, court documents, or signed statements on **official letterhead** from a high school counselor, case worker, clergy member, or other professionals who can confirm that your situation warrants independent status consideration.
3. **Signed copies of your 2010 Federal Tax Return and W2's.** You must have sufficient income to support yourself.
4. **Completed 2011-2012 Independent Verification Worksheet** (download from <http://www.essex.edu/finaid/forms.html>).
5. **Any additional supporting documentation** pertinent to your circumstance.

**Note: You will be notified by email when a decision has been made on your appeal.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE SIGNED

\_\_\_\_\_  
ECC EMAIL ADDRESS

## INDEPENDENT STATUS APPEAL STATEMENT

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ECC ID NUMBER
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Briefly describe below why you should be considered as an Independent Student:

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STUDENT'S SIGNATURE

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DATE SIGNED