

**Financial Aid Office**  
Salem State University  
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Salem, MA 01970-5353

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## DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE WORKSHEET

Please Complete:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student's Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student ID #**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Email Address**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Home Telephone #**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Social Security Number**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Local Telephone #**

You are initially considered dependent by the Federal Department of Education if you **CANNOT** answer "YES" to one or more of the following questions:

- Were you born before January 1, 1988?
- Are you married?
- Will you be working on a master's doctorate program (such as an MA, MBA, MD, JD, or Ph.D., etc.) during the school year 2011-2012?
- Do you have any children who get more than half of their support from you, or do you have any legal dependents that get more than half of their support from you and will continue to get that support during the 2011-2012 school year?
- Are you on active duty or a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?
- At any time since you turned 13, were both your parents deceased? Were you in state appointed foster care or were you a ward of the court?
- Are you or were you an emancipated minor determined by a court?
- Was someone other than a biological parent appointed as your guardian by the court?
- Were you determined by a State or Federal agency to be either an unaccompanied youth or homeless or both?

A student not answering yes to any of the above questions may only be considered independent from their parents under an extenuating circumstance. This does **NOT** include living on your own and supporting yourself. **Generally speaking, dependency overrides are granted if it is determined that it would be unsafe or impossible for a student to have contact with their biological parent(s) due to abuse, neglect or incarceration.** The Financial Aid Office has strict guidelines to override a dependency status. Students wishing to appeal dependency **must have supporting documents from three sources in addition to their own statement.** Documents can be letters from family, friend, witnesses, or court papers with at least **one document from a third party member** (*ex: Psychologist, Clergyman, Guidance Counselor, Judge, Lawyer etc*). If you are unable to provide this type of letter, your circumstance will not be reviewed. If you are still unsure if your circumstance warrants a dependency override, please make an appointment with a counselor to discuss your circumstance.

Financial aid administrators meet as a committee twice monthly to review Dependency Override Appeals.