



# EDWARD WATERS COLLEGE

2017-2018

## VERIFICATION OF INDEPENDENT STATUS

Your independent status is based on your answers to the dependency questions on the FAFSA. You are required to submit legal documentation to verify your status. Additional information may be requested. Please check the box in Step 1 that best represents your situation and submit the required documentation. We will not be able to process an award for you until the documentation and form has been fully completed, received and processed in our office.

**NOTE:** If none of these situations apply to you because you answered the question incorrectly on the FAFSA, please correct your FAFSA online and provide parent information. This may change your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) and your eligibility for financial aid. For all questions, contact [finaid@ewc.edu](mailto:finaid@ewc.edu) or 904-470-8190.

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**STEP 1:** Determine the circumstances that make you independent, check the corresponding box and submit this form and supporting documentation to the Office of Financial Aid. Check the applicable box for circumstances that apply at any time on or after July 1, 2017.

### A. Emancipated Minor/Legal Guardianship

- Are you or were you an emancipated minor as determined by a court in your state of legal residence before the age of 18?
- Attach a copy of a court's decision that you are or were an emancipated minor.
  - Attach a typed letter written by you detailing your circumstances.
- Are you or were you in a legal guardianship as determined by a court in your state of legal residence before the age of 18?
- Attach a copy of a court's decision that you are or were in legal guardianship.
  - Attach a typed letter written by you detailing your circumstances.

### B. Orphan, Ward of the Court or Foster Care Form

- Are you currently or were you an orphan at any time from the age of 13 or older even if subsequently adopted?(Check this box only if both parents are deceased; do not check this box if one parent is deceased and the whereabouts of the other parent is unknown. If this is the case, please contact the financial aid office.
- Attach a copy of your birth certificate, along with a copy of each parent's death certificate
  - Attach a typed letter written by you detailing your circumstances
- Are you currently or were you a ward or dependent of the court at any time from the age of 13 or older? (This is applicable even if you are no longer a dependent/ward of the court as of today)
- Attach a letter from your social worker confirming that you were a dependent of the court, or a letter stating that you are a participant in the Living Skills Program (ILSP)



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or other court document showing that you were removed from your home because it posed a direct threat to your well-being.

- Attach a typed letter written by you detailing your circumstances

Are you currently or were you in foster care from the age of 13 or older?

- Attach legal documentation from your state of residency.
- Attach a typed letter written by you detailing your circumstances

### C. Unaccompanied Youth/Homeless

Did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless?

- Submit official documentation from your high school district homeless liaison documenting this determination.
- Attach a typed letter written by you detailing your circumstance.

Did the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless?

- Submit official documentation from the director of the shelter or housing program documenting this determination.
- Attach a typed letter written by you detailing your circumstances.

Did the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting at risk of being homeless?

- Submit official documentation from the director of the basic center or transitional living program documenting this determination
- Attach a typed letter written by you detailing YOUR circumstances.

### D. Support Children/Other Dependents

Do you have children who will receive more than half their support from you between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018?

- Submit a letter including their names, ages, relationship, where they live
- Please explain in your letter how you support the children.

Do you have dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and receive more than half their support from you, now and between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018?

- Submit a letter including their names, ages, relationship.
- Please explain in your letter how you support these individuals.



**E. U.S. ARMED FORCES ACTIVE DUTY/VETERAN**

Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes of other than training?

- Submit a copy of your military orders or a letter from your commanding officer to verify your status

Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?

- Submit a copy of your DD214 showing your release status

**F. Professional Judgment**

None of the situations above relate to me, and I have no contact with my parents.

- Submit a letter explaining your current situation and how you support yourself
- Submit one letter from a family member or friend supporting your circumstances
- Submit a letter on letterhead from a professional person supporting your circumstances. This could be a clergy, high school guidance counselor, teacher, youth organization member.

**STEP 2: Certification Statement**

***Your signature on this document confirms your acknowledgement of the following:***

- The information submitted for review is true and correct to the best of your knowledge
- Providing false information may result in reduced eligibility, repayment of aid, or both.
- You have read each section, provided the required documentation and realize that more may be required upon request.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Please Print*

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*For Office Use Only*

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Processed: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

