Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships

Appeal for Independent Status 2025-2026

Student Name: _____ **NSHE ID:** _____

The Appeal for Independent Status is **ONLY** applicable to students who **HAVE NOT** previously been granted an approved appeal at the University of Nevada, Reno.

SECTION 1: REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Personal Statement: Submit a personal statement that explains why you are unable to obtain parent information for the FAFSA, or why it would be unsafe for you to attempt to do so. Also, explain how you supported yourself in the last calendar year.

Two Third-Party Statements: Submit **two signed** third-party statements *(on business letterhead with contact information)* that support the claims made in your personal statement. Recommended third parties include, but not limited to: school counselors, clergy, physicians, social workers, or other individuals who are familiar with your circumstances.

SECTION 2: CERTIFICATION

Acknowledgment of Regulations:

By initaling in the box provided, you acknowledge that your appeal will not be approved if you do not adequately demonstrate that you meet the qualifications for a dependency override.

Per Federal Regulations, the following circumstances, either individually or in combination of do not qualify as unusual circumstances for the purpose of this appeal: parents who refuse to contribute toward your education, parents who are unwilling to provide information for the FAFSA application, parents who do not claim student as a dependent for tax purposes, parents live in another country, or a student that demonstrates total self-sufficiency.

_____
(Initial)

By signing this document, I certify that all information reported is complete and accurate. I further understand that purposely providing false or misleading information on this document may result in being fined, jailed, or both. **Signing for someone else is FRAUD, even with their permission.**

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Contact Information	Phone: (775) 784-4666	Email: fapj@unr.edu	Fax: (775) 784-1025

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Student Name: _____ **NSHE ID:** _____

Date of Birth: _____ **Phone Number:** _____

E-Mail Address: _____

SECTION 3: DEMOGRAPHIC AND MARITAL STATUS

Based on the answers you provided on your FAFSA, you were determined to be an ***independent*** student. Answer the questions below about your demographic and marital status.

Select one of the options below that best describes your marital status as of the day you submitted your FAFSA

◯ **Single AND Never Married. DO NOT provide spouse's information below.**

◯ **Married. MUST provide spouse's information below.**

◯ **Married, BUT separated AND NOT living together with your spouse. DO NOT provide spouse's information below. Selecting this option may require additional documentation at a later date.**

Date of Separation *(MM/YYYY)*: _____

◯ **Divorced AND NOT remarried. DO NOT provide spouse's information below. Selecting this option may require additional documentation at a later date.**

Date Divorce Finalized *(MM/YYYY)*: _____

◯ **Widowed. DO NOT provide spouse's information below. Selecting this option may require additional documentation at a later date.**

Date of Spouse's Death *(MM/YYYY)*: _____

If the option you selected above indicated your spouse's information is required, enter the requested information below about your spouse.

Spouse Full Name: _____ **Age:** _____

SECTION 4: FAMILY SIZE

Are there any additional children or other dependents that you claimed on your 2023 Tax Return? *If YES, then complete the remainder of the section.* ◯ Yes ◯ No

Full Name: _____ **Full Name:** _____ **Full Name:** _____

Full Name: _____ **Full Name:** _____ **Full Name:** _____

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SECTION 5: STUDENT TAX STATUS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Student, select one option below that best describes your tax status for the **2023 calendar year.**

◯ **I filed a 2023 Tax Return.** *(**Required Documents:** An official 2023 Tax Return Transcript, **OR** a **physically signed** copy of your 2023 IRS 1040 form, **AND** Schedules 1, and/or 3 (schedules as applicable).)*

◯ **I WAS employed in 2023 AND WAS NOT required to file a 2023 Tax Return.** *(**Required Documents:** List each employer and the amount earned in 2023 below. Additionally, attach your W-2s for each employer.)*

Employer Name: _____ **Wages Earned:** _____

Employer Name: _____ **Wages Earned:** _____

Employer Name: _____ **Wages Earned:** _____

◯ **I WAS NOT employed in 2023 AND WAS NOT required to file a 2023 Tax Return.** *(**Required Documents:** None)*

SECTION 6: SPOUSE TAX STATUS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS *(if applicable)*

Spouse *(if applicable)*, select one option below that best describes your tax status for the **2023 calendar year.**

◯ **My spouse filed Filing Jointly with me (student) listed in Section 1 of this form for the 2023 tax year.** *(**Required Documents:** None)*

◯ **My spouse filed Separately from me (student) listed in Section 1 of this form for the 2023 tax year.** *(**Required Documents:** An official 2023 Tax Return Transcript, **OR** a **physically signed** copy of your 2023 IRS 1040 form, **AND** Schedules 1 and/or 3 (schedules as applicable).)*

◯ **My spouse WAS employed in 2023 AND WAS NOT required to file a 2023 Tax Return, nor was their income reported on my (student) 2023 tax documents.** *(**Required Documents:** List each employer and the amount earned in 2023 below. Additionally, attach your W-2s for each employer.)*

Employer Name: _____ **Wages Earned:** _____

Employer Name: _____ **Wages Earned:** _____

Employer Name: _____ **Wages Earned:** _____

◯ **My spouse WAS NOT employed in 2023 AND WAS NOT required to file a 2023 Tax Return, nor are they listed on my (student) 2023 tax documents.** *(**Required Documents:** None)*

SECTION 7: STUDENT ROLLOVERS

Did you report any taxable IRA distributions, pensions or annuities on your IRS 1040 Tax Return for 2023 (lines 4b and/or 5b) AND was this amount a rollover*? If YES, please attach a copy of your 1099-R form. ◯ Yes ◯ No/NA

***** *A rollover occurs when you withdraw assets from one retirement plan and contribute it, within 60 days, to another retirement plan.*

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SECTION 8: SPOUSE ROLLOVERS *(if applicable AND filed separately)*

Did you report any taxable IRA distributions, pensions or annuities on your IRS 1040 Tax Return for 2023 (lines 4b and/or 5b) AND was this amount a rollover*? If YES, please attach a copy of your 1099-R form.

◯ Yes ◯ No/NA

***** *A rollover occurs when you withdraw assets from one retirement plan and contribute it, within 60 days, to another retirement plan.*

SECTION 9: CERTIFICATION

By signing this verification worksheet, we certify that all information reported is complete and accurate and understand that verification will not be processed if any section of this form is left blank. We further understand that purposely providing false or misleading information on this worksheet may result in being fined, jailed, or both. **Signing for someone else is FRAUD, even with their permission.**

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____