

REQUEST FOR INDEPENDENCE OVERRIDE

Finger Lakes Community College understands that under certain conditions students who do not meet the federal definition for independence, should be considered independent due to their life circumstances, such as:

- You voluntarily or involuntarily left home due to an abusive situation that threatened your health and safety.
- Your parent is incapacitated due to incarceration, significant physical or mental illness, or disability.
- You are unable to locate parents after making reasonable efforts.
- You have other extenuating circumstances sufficiently documented by third parties.

Not living with your parents or not being claimed by them on tax forms does not make you an independent student for purposes of applying for federal student aid. If your parent is providing any support to you, including, allowing you to live in their home, including you on their car or health insurance, providing a car to drive on a regular basis, and payment of your tuition or fees.

Step 1: Start the FAFSA

Complete all student sections on the FAFSA. The FAFSA will not fully process without the parental information. However, once we receive the items below, we can work with you to finalize your FAFSA.

Step 2: Personal Statement

Write a statement explaining why you should be considered an independent student for financial aid purposes. The statement should be physically signed by you, indicate when you became independent from your parents and why you are unable to live at home.

Your statement will be treated with the utmost confidentiality and care. The information you share with us is not shared with any other area of the college unless we believe that you or another FLCC affiliated person is in immediate danger of serious harm.

Step 3: Supporting Documentation

We understand that sometimes your situation is very personal and private, with very few people knowing details. However, to fully assess your request and meet federal requirements for the override, supporting documentation is required.

You must submit at least two of the types of documentation listed below:

A signed letter from a third party professional: A third-party professional is a high school guidance counselor, social worker, clergy, counselor, doctor or other professional who is not related to you and can confirm that your situation warrants independent status. Their letter must be on official letterhead,

physically signed and should indicate their relationship/affiliation with you and must explain why you are unable to live at home. --OR--

Two different letters from close friends and/or family members: Their letter must be physically signed and should indicate their relationship/affiliation with you and must explain why you are unable to live at home and can affirm that your situation deserves independent status. --OR--

Documentation affirming your personal statement: Supporting documentation may include court or law enforcement documents; social service statements indicating benefits you qualify for as independent; incident reports; school records, death certificates; incarceration records, etc. Again, the utmost confidentiality and care will be provided to the information you share. Please feel free to block out personally identifiable information (PII), at your discretion (PII is names, dates of birth, addresses, social security numbers, etc.)

Step 4: Submit your Personal Statement & Documentation

Email: aid@flcc.edu Fax: 585-394-0635 Drop-Off: Student Wing, Room 1145

Mail: Finger Lakes Community College, Financial Aid Office, 3325 Marvin Sands Drive, Canandaigua, NY 14424

Next Steps: Review and Decision by the Financial Aid Office

Please allow 2 weeks for review and decision of your request. Our decision will be emailed to your FLCC email account, or the student email provided on your FAFSA, if you do not have access to your FLCC email account at the time of the decision.

Nondiscrimination Notice: Finger Lakes Community College does not discriminate based on an individual's race, color, national origin, religion, creed, age, disability, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, familial status, pregnancy, predisposing genetic characteristics, military status, domestic violence victim status, or criminal conviction.