

Federal aid regulations classify students as independent if they meet at least one of the qualifying criteria listed below.

- Please find the criteria that matches your situation, and submit that **required documentation**.
- If none of these criteria apply, but you still think you should be considered independent because of significant problems in your relationship with your parents, then please contact our office to discuss your situation. Eligible students can appeal for independent status using the [Appeal for Independent Status](#) form. (This form is also available at [www.towson.edu/aidforms](http://www.towson.edu/aidforms).)

Qualifying Criteria	Required Documentation
A. You have dependents (other than spouse) who live with you and who will receive more than half of their support from you, from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documentation of the dependent person’s address</li> <li>• <b>and</b> a statement listing their name, age, and relationship to you, and explaining how you provide financial support</li> </ul>
B. At any time when you were age 13 or older, both of your parents were deceased, you were in foster care, or you were a dependent/ward of the court.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Court documents <b>or</b> death certificates of both parents</li> </ul>
C. You were or are an emancipated minor as determined by a court or you were or are in legal guardianship as determined by a court in your state of legal residence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Court Documents</li> </ul>
D. A court in your state, placed you in the in the legal custody of someone other than your biological or adoptive parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Court Documents</li> <li>• <b>and</b> <a href="#">Documentation of Legal Custody form</a>, which can also be found at: <a href="http://www.towson.edu/aidforms">www.towson.edu/aidforms</a></li> </ul>
E. You are a homeless or unaccompanied youth, defined as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• on or after July 1, 2024, a high school or school district homeless liaison determined that you are an unaccompanied homeless youth,</li> <li>• or on or after July 1, 2024, an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determined that you are an unaccompanied homeless youth,</li> <li>• or on or after July 1, 2024, a director of a runaway or homeless youth center or transitional living program determined that you are an unaccompanied homeless youth or are self-supporting and at risk of being homeless.</li> </ul>	Submit a <a href="#">Verification of Homelessness form</a> , which can also be found at: <a href="http://www.towson.edu/aidforms">www.towson.edu/aidforms</a>

**Submission Methods** (Choose one.) - Please include student’s name and TU ID Number.

Document Upload	Fax	Mail	In Person
Scan documents and upload to <a href="http://www.towson.edu/SubmitAidDocs">www.towson.edu/SubmitAidDocs</a> . Please combine multiple pages into a single PDF file.	410-704-2584	Towson University Financial Aid Office 8000 York Road Towson, MD 21252	Room 339 Enrollment Services Center Monday - Friday 8:00 - 4:30

Please allow us 4 to 5 days to remove document requests from your To-Dos.