CATAWBA COLLEGE EST. 1851
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2027-2028 VERIFICATION OF INDEPENDENT STATUS FORM

Student Name: _____ **Student ID#:** _____

Email: _____ **Home/Cell Phone:**_____

Your 2027-2028 FAFSA information indicated that you are an independent student based on your response to at least one of the criteria listed below or you have stated that you have unusual circumstances that prevents you from providing parental information on your FAFSA application. In order to determine your Financial Aid eligibility, the Financial Aid Office needs you to confirm your independent status.

Please mark the independent status you listed on the FAFSA and attach the required documentation or none of the above due to unusual circumstances and proceed to page 2.

**If you do not meet any of the criteria for independent status listed below or you do not qualify for unusual circumstances on page 2, you will be required to correct your FAFSA and update it to include parental information and a parental signature.*

NOTE: *Additional documentation may be requested for clarification.*

	Independent Status Eligibility Criteria	Supporting Documentation Required
	I married.	Attach a copy of your marriage certificate.
	I have a legal dependent other than a spouse, who will receive **more than 50%** of his/her financial support from me between July 1, 2027, and June 30, 2028.	Attach a copy of your 2025 Federal 1040 Tax Return AND other supporting documentation to confirm financial support of yourself and dependent (i.e. W-2s, lease or mortgage statement, etc.).
	Both of my parents are deceased.	Attach a copy of your parent's death certificate or signed letters from family members documenting your circumstance.
	I am currently, or was a ward/dependent of the court or in foster care since the age of 13.	Attach a copy of the court documentation regarding your ward/dependent of the court status.
	I am or was an emancipated minor as determined by a court in my state of legal residence.	Attach a copy of the court documentation explaining that you are an emancipated minor as determined by a court in your state of legal residence.
	I am or was in legal guardianship with someone other than my parent/stepparent as determined by a court in my state of legal residence. (Legal custody does not apply)	Attach a copy of the court documentation explaining your legal guardianship as determined by a court in your state of legal residence.
	After July 1, 2026, I was homeless or at risk of being homeless.	Attach a letter on official letterhead from a high school district homeless liaison, the director of a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development funded homeless shelter, or the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program confirming this status.
	I answered the FAFSA incorrectly and none of these conditions apply to me.	Update your 2027-2028 FAFSA by changing your answer(s) to the dependency questions, and include your parental information and parental signature.
	None of the above apply and I have unusual circumstances.	Go to page 2 and complete this section with the required documentation.

CATAWBA COLLEGE
Established in 1851

Scholarship.
Character.
Culture.
Service.

Unusual Circumstances

Federal regulations permit financial aid administrators to make dependency overrides on a case-by-case basis for any student with unusual circumstances. **However, federal regulations prohibit the following circumstances (as the reason alone):**

- You are financially self-sufficient.
- You do not live with your parent(s).
- You are not claimed as an exemption on your parent's federal income tax returns.
- Your parent(s) refuse to complete the FAFSA, participate in verification or pay for college.
- Your parent(s) live in a foreign country.

Unusual circumstances where an override may be considered (*must be documented*):

- An abusive family environment (e.g., sexual, physical, or mental abuse or other forms of domestic violence),
- Abandonment by parents,
- Incarceration or institutionalization of both parents,
- Parents lacking the physical or mental capacity to raise the child,
- Parents whereabouts unknown or parents cannot be located.
- Other unusual circumstances not listed.

If you can document unusual circumstances, complete this form to request your dependency status be changed to independent. The outcome of your appeal depends on the information you furnish to the Financial Aid Office. Be complete and concise. All documentation is required, and information will be held strictly confidential.

Documentation for Consideration Student's Statement of Independence - A typed and signed/dated personal statement in which you explain the following:

• Reason(s) for requesting a dependency override.
• History or parental relationships including timeline of events.
• Current living arrangements. Include names and contact information of household members, if any.
• How you support yourself.

Third Party Affirmation – A signed statement(s) from each of the following:

1. **•A professional adult** who is familiar with and can verify your circumstances. Examples of professional adult include law enforcement officer, clergy member, school counselor, or social worker. *These statements must either be on a business letterhead, signed, and dated OR from a third party's business/organization email address.*
2. **Relative or friend** who is familiar with and can verify your circumstances. *Must include contact information.*

Proof of Finances – Copy of student's 2025 IRS Federal income Tax Return and W-2s **OR** 2025 IRS Verification of Non-Filing Letter.

Additional Documentation – Any documentation that supports your claim for independent status.
• Examples: Copies of reports from the courts, death certificate(s), incarceration notice(s), police report(s).

All forms & documentations should be submitted to the Financial Aid Office at Catawba College, 2300 West Innes Street Salisbury, NC 28144. To securely upload documents, log into My Catawba Portal, and use the **Financial Aid Document Upload**. **The Financial Aid Document Upload** can be found on the left-hand side of the screen under **Systems.** Due to Federal Regulations, no personally identifiable (Tax Return Transcripts and W2 information) can be scanned to email.

Signature

The person signing below certifies all the information reported is complete and correct, and that all relevant documentation is included.

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

WARNING: If you purposely give false or misleading information in an attempt to obtain federal financial aid, you may be fined up to $20,000 and/or incarcerated.