UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
MERCED
OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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2020-2021 DEPENDENCY APPEAL

Student UCM ID | | | | | | | | | |

Student Full Name _____ _____ _____
First Name Last Name M.I.

Students who do not meet the federal definition of an independent student, but who meet one of the following extraordinary circumstances , may submit this appeal to be considered for a Dependency Override. Such overrides are determined on a case-by-case basis. In order for your appeal to be considered, you must be able to document that all financial and emotional contact with your parents has been severed as a result of an adverse home situation. Some examples of adverse conditions include the following:

- Severe estrangement from parents
- An unsafe home environment
- Physical or emotional abuse
- Abandonment

Check the box that applies to you:

☐ **I have an adverse home situation.**

You must attach the following documentation:
- A signed and dated letter from you explaining your situation; and
- A signed and dated letter from a law enforcement officer, medical doctor, teacher, counselor or clergyman who has direct personal knowledge of your situation. The letter must be written on the letterhead of the agency where the professional is employed and must substantiate the existence of the adverse family situation.
- [optional] Any other supporting documentation, such as police report and/or medical report.

Please be aware that the following circumstances **do not qualify** for a dependency override:
- Parents refuse to contribute to your education;
- Parents do not claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes;
- Parents unwillingness to provide information for the financial aid application or the verification process;
- Student demonstrates total self-sufficiency

☐ **My parents are unwilling to provide information on the FAFSA or required verification documents.**

Please note that you may only be eligible for a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan without completing a FAFSA.

You must attach the following documentation: (this does not make you eligible for a dependency override):
- A signed and dated letter from you explaining your situation; and
- A signed and dated letter from your parent indicating that they are unwilling to provide information on the FAFSA.

or

- If parent refuses to provide any documentation you will need to submit documentation from a third party such as a teacher, counselor, clergyman, or court.

☐ **I have an adverse home situation that was documented in a prior year at the University of California, Merced** and I certify my situation has not changed for the 2020-2021 academic year.

STUDENT CERTIFICATION

I hereby declare that all information reported on this document is true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any false statement or misrepresentation will be cause for denial, reduction, withdrawal and/or repayment of financial aid and referral to the appropriate authorities.

_____ _____
Student Signature Date