



WESTERN MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY

STUDENT NAME: _____
 WIN: _____
 DAYTIME PHONE: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

WMU Student Financial Aid
 1903 W Michigan Ave
 Kalamazoo MI 49008-5337
 (269) 387-6000
 finaid-info@wmich.edu

DOCUMENTATION OF INDEPENDENT STUDENTS

Based on the information indicated on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid, you are considered an independent student and your status must be verified before your financial aid eligibility is determined. Your completed form must be received in our office at least **30 days** prior to your last date of enrollment for the academic year you are requesting financial aid. Many financial aid programs have specific deadlines. Delays in processing your application may result in a reduction or loss of financial aid awards. If you have any questions, please call Bronco Express at (269) 387-6000.

INSTRUCTIONS: Check one of the boxes below, attach all required supporting documentation, sign and return this form. If you cannot check one of the boxes below and you have special circumstances, please call Bronco Express to make an appointment with a Financial Services Specialist.

Check box	Independent Status Criteria	Supporting Documentation...attach ALL to form and return with signed form. Put WIN on all documents.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am currently serving on federal active duty with the U.S. Armed Forces or with the National Guard Reserves for purposes other than training.	Copy of military orders documenting active duty status.
<input type="checkbox"/>	At the age of 13 or older, both of my parents are deceased.	Copies of parental death certificates or signed letters from family members documenting circumstances. If one parent is deceased and the other parent's whereabouts are unknown, attach letter of explanation.
<input type="checkbox"/>	At the age 13 or older, I was placed in foster care or was taken from my parents by the state and am considered a ward of the court.	Copies of appropriate court decree or official letter from social worker.
<input type="checkbox"/>	As of the date I filed the FAFSA, I am or was an emancipated minor before I became an adult.	Copies of appropriate court decree documenting emancipation and verifying effective through age of becoming an adult.
<input type="checkbox"/>	As of the date I filed the FAFSA, I am or was in legal guardianship (whereby a guardian was appointed for me) before I became an adult.	Copies of appropriate court decree (i.e. "Letters of Guardianship") documenting permanent appointment of a guardian and verifying effective through age of becoming an adult.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am determined to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless on or after July 1 of the previous academic year. (For example, if you are enrolled for the 2019-20 school year, you must meet this criterion on or after July 1, 2018.)	Copy of letter on official letterhead from your high school, emergency shelter program or director of a runaway or homeless youth center or program. NOTE: if these are not available please schedule an appointment with the Student Financial Aid office, by calling (269) 387-6000.

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____

Return your completed form to Bronco Express on the lower level of the Bernhard Center. You may also email or mail to the address above. Be sure to include your name and WIN on all pages. Missing information may delay the processing of financial aid.