

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**WIN #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**-- Please Print Legibly in Blue or Black Ink Only --**
**Documentation of Independent Status**

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. **Return all documents to Western's financial aid office at least 30 days prior to your last date of enrollment for the academic year you are requesting financial aid.**

**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 make an appointment with a financial aid services specialist.

Check box	Independent Status Criteria	Supporting Documentation...attach ALL to form and return with signed form
	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
	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.
	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
	As of the date I filed the FAFSA, I am or was an emancipated minor immediately before I became an adult.	Copies of appropriate court decree documenting emancipation and verifying effective through age of becoming an adult.
	As of the date I filed the FAFSA, I am or was in legal guardianship (whereby a guardian was appointed for me) immediately 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.
	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 2010-11 school year, you must meet this criteria on or after July 1, 2009.)	Copy of letter on official letterhead from your high school, emergency shelter program or director of a runaway or homeless youth center or program

**SIGNATURE:**

**I hereby certify that this information is true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. Any attached documents required to verify my independent status are true and exact copies of the original.**

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

We encourage you to resolve this issue as quickly as possible. Many financial aid programs have specific deadlines. Delays in processing your application may result in a reduction or loss of financial aid awards. Be sure to include your name and WIN number on any documents you submit. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Bronco Express at (269) 387-6000.

**Please mail document to: Western Michigan University, Student Financial Aid  
1903 West Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5337**