



Financial Aid Office

El Camino College (ECC) - 16007 Crenshaw Blvd. ♦ Torrance, CA 90506 ☎1-310-660-3493 ♦ www.elcamino.edu

2020 – 2021 Request for Review of Dependency Status

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| Deadlines: | Attending Fall 2020 Only Form Due: November 6, 2020 | Attending Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 OR Spring 2021 Only Form Due: May 6, 2021 | Attending Summer 2021 Only Form Due: July 15, 2021 |
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A student is considered “dependent” and must provide parental information unless the student meets one of the following conditions:

- Born before January 1, 1997.
- Married when the FAFSA application was completed and dated.
- Working on a master’s or doctorate degree at the beginning of the 2020-21 school year.
- Is currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training.
- Veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces.
- Have children who receive more than half of their support from you between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021.
- Have dependents (other than children or spouse) that live with you and receive more than half of their support from you, now and through June 30, 2021.
- At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care or were you a dependent or ward of the court? (this does not include person confined in juvenile or state facilities)
- Are you or were you an emancipated minor as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?
- Are you or were you in legal guardianship as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?
- At any time on or after July 1, 2019, did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless?
- At any time on or after July 1, 2019, did the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless?
- At any time on or after July 1, 2019, did the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?

If your family situation involves an unusual circumstance **that makes it impossible for you to have contact with parents** such as those described below, you may request a review of your dependency status. All requests will be reviewed by the Financial Aid Office, but not all requests are granted.

Examples of unusual circumstances are:

- Parent is developmentally challenged or in prison.
- -Student suffered parental abuse and it is documented by an agency or the court.
- Death of parent after filing the FAFSA.
- Other unusual circumstances that restrict your contact with parent(s).

Note: Being considered independent does not automatically make you eligible for more financial aid.
You may actually have more financial aid eligibility as a dependent student.

**Review the Following Guidelines Before Filing this Appeal You
are not automatically independent if you:**

- Decided to move away from the home of your parent(s).
- Are unwilling to seek financial assistance from your parent(s).
- Are able to pay for your own educational expenses.
- Your parent(s) are unwilling to provide parental data on your financial aid application.
- Your parent(s) request that you move away from their home.
- Your parent(s) live in another state or out of the country and cannot be contacted by normal correspondence (i.e., mail, e-mail)

We must have additional information and documentation of your family circumstances for our office to consider your request for review of dependency status. Please follow the instructions below:

We can review your appeal once the following information has been submitted:

- 1. A detailed, legible letter explaining the adverse family circumstances (see page 3).
- 2. **Two Reference Letters:** One from a professional, (i.e.; counselor, therapist, social worker, etc.), on business letterhead. Second reference letter from a person (i.e.; relative, friend, neighbor) having comprehensive knowledge regarding the existence of the adverse condition. Both letters must provide following information:
 - How long have you known the student?
 - Provide a brief statement regarding your knowledge of the student's family history and relationship with parent(s). Include why the student cannot provide parental information on the financial aid application.
 - When was the last day you were aware that the student received financial support from his/ her parent(s) and/ or lived with his/her parents?
 - How is the student supporting himself/herself?
 - Your relationship to student. **Reference name, contact phone number and address on letter, signed and current dated.**

If you have any questions please feel free to email the Financial Aid office at eccfaid@elcamino.