

Austin College

FINANCIAL AID APPEAL

2016-2017

STUDENT'S NAME: _____

STUDENT'S SSN: _____

FINANCIAL AID APPEAL PROCESS

We understand that there are times when a family may have difficult financial circumstances. While the federal law defines a family's ability to contribute towards their child's college education by calculating the Expected Family Contribution (EFC), as determined by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), we realize that due to certain financial circumstances that have occurred within a family that they may not be able to contribute as much as the FAFSA initially determined. The law does provide some flexibility to allow a Financial Aid Officer to re-evaluate a family's financial situation and perhaps recalculate the EFC.

Such re-evaluation is done on a case-by-case basis only after all documentation is submitted to the Office of Financial Aid. **If it is determined that a recalculation of the EFC can be done, it is valid for this academic year only. Any adjustment made to the EFC should not be construed as a commitment for adjustments in future periods.**

Examples of circumstances that may warrant an adjustment:

- ◆ For dependent students, significant changes in parental income from 2015 to 2016;
- ◆ For independent students, significant changes in student's and/or spouse's income from 2015 to 2016;
- ◆ Loss of benefits, child support, retirement, VA or Social Security benefits;
- ◆ Un-reimbursed medical/dental expenses.

Examples of circumstances NOT warranted:

- ◆ Medical costs paid for by insurance, other parties, flex plans, co-payments or any other tax deductible expenses;
- ◆ Routine dental, physical, or eye care;
- ◆ Personal expenses such as monthly bills, purchase of new vehicles, or other lifestyle choices.

Circumstances and Documentation

Check below the section(s) that best fits your special circumstance and be sure to submit the type(s) of documentation that can be used to substantiate your request (submit all that apply to your case):

Loss of Job

- Projection of family income for 2016 – include all family members (i.e. both parents and student)
- Letter of termination
- Last pay stub from lost employment
- Unemployment benefits – include amount of benefits, length of time you are eligible for benefits, start date and end date

Loss of benefits (disability, retirement, worker’s compensation, social security benefits), alimony, and/or child support

- Notice of termination of disability, social security, worker’s compensation
- Notice of termination of child support
- Copy of divorce decree with section highlighted showing cessation of child support
- Must provide amount of social security benefits expected for 2016 for all members of the household who will receive benefits for 2016

Unusually high/un-reimbursed Medical/Dental Expenses – not covered by insurance or other party

- Schedule A from 2015 Federal Tax Return
- Copies of all medical/dental expenses not covered by insurance
- Copies of prescription bills not covered by insurance

Other Circumstances (those that severely impact income and cause extreme hardship)

- Separation or divorce of parents since applying for Federal financial aid – must provide date & documentation of separation or divorce – must indicate which parent will be providing more than 50% of your support
- Death of a parent since applying for Federal financial aid – must provide date of death & copy of death certificate



PLEASE RETURN ALL DOCUMENTATION FOR THIS APPEAL AT THE SAME TIME.

(Do not send in documentation piece by piece)

Without proper documentation and the required information, this request can delay your financial aid award from being provided to you in a reasonable timeframe.

The following **must** be included with your request for your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) to be recalculated:

- A typed statement (must be signed and dated) that gives your perspective on why your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) should be recalculated.
- Appropriate documentation (as explained on previous page) to support your request for an adjustment to your EFC.
- If the student is **dependent**, one copy student's parent(s)' 2015 federal tax transcript from the IRS, please attach all schedules and W-2s
- If the student is **independent and/or married**, one copy of the student's (and spouse's) 2015 federal tax transcript from the IRS, please attach all schedules and W-2s
- One copy of the student's 2015 federal tax transcript from the IRS, including all schedules and W-2s (only if the appeal is specific to the student's own financial situation)

A Number in Household form must also be submitted with the appeal.

**This web address will show you how to obtain a copy of your federal tax transcript:
www.austincollege.edu/verification**

Your signature and your parent's or spouse's signature below will attest to the accuracy of information provided.

Certification: The information on this form and provided to substantiate my request is true, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I agree to furnish additional information if asked. I understand that purposely giving false or misleading information is subject to a fine of up to \$10,000, federal imprisonment of up to five years, or both.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Step Parent/Spouse Signature

Date

FINANCIAL AID OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Reviewed _____ Approved _____ Denied _____

Comments: _____

Original EFC _____ PJ EFC _____

Approved by: _____ Date: _____

