The primary responsibility for financing a college education rests with the student and parents. Many students feel they are independent because they are currently living on their own, or because their parents no longer claim them on their income taxes. However, SFA is required by federal law to consider parent information unless the student meets one of the following criteria:

- 24 years of age or older by December 31, 2014;
- Married individual;
- serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training;
- Veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States;
- have legal dependents other than a spouse;
- is/was at any time since age 13, an orphan or ward/dependent of the court, in foster care, or legally placed under the care of the court;
- is/was an emancipated minor or in legal guardianship as determined by a court in your state of legal residence.

If you are applying for financial aid and do not meet the definition of an independent student you must apply for financial aid as a Dependent student. If unusual family circumstances exist that make it impossible for you to obtain parent information, our office will review your dependency status.

Before our office will consider any changes regarding dependency status, you must complete the appropriate sections of this form and provide supporting documentation. This office may request additional information for consideration of your review.

Upon submitting all documents, your request for Independent status will be reviewed by a Financial Aid Committee. Notification of the committee’s decision will be delivered to your Student Center. Please allow at least 15 business days (may take longer during peak processing periods). All Committee decisions are final.

Resource Information (to be completed by all students)

Where did you live in 2013? ___ off campus ___ with parents ___ with relatives

Where will you live in 2014? ___ off campus ___ with parents ___ with relatives

Attach completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (if not already submitted), along with a copy of your 2013 U.S. Income Tax Transcript; AND, list all types, amounts & sources of your annual income for 2013 (i.e. wages, interest income, gifts from other people, AFDC, Social Security benefits, child support, etc.).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount?</th>
<th>From what source?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• 2013 work income $________________________</td>
<td>Employer = ____________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 2013 untaxed income $______________________</td>
<td>______________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 2013 other resources $______________________</td>
<td>______________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 2013 Student Financial Aid $________________</td>
<td>______________________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

List the amount of financial (monetary) support you currently receive from your parent(s)? $__________

Did/will your parent(s) provide your health insurance or car insurance, etc. (please clarify)? Yes/No_____
A. Extenuating Family Circumstances

We may be able to override your dependent status if unusual family circumstances exist that makes it impossible for you to have contact with your parents. Examples are: surviving parent is in prison or hospitalized; you have been physically abused by parent(s); your parent(s) live out of the country and you are unable to maintain contact with them; or other extraordinary circumstances that may warrant our consideration. If your family situation involves an extreme situation such as those described above, you may appeal your dependent status by submitting all the following:

- A personal letter of explanation describing your relationship with your parent(s). Both parents must be addressed in the letter. Include the circumstances that prevent you from obtaining parent information, and your means of support.
- Two (2) notarized “Independent Student Status Documentation Statement” forms from two (2) different third parties who can verify the circumstances that prevent you from maintaining contact with your parents. These statements must be from other adult relatives &/or other professionals (i.e., clergy, teachers, counselors, or social workers).
- Documentation to support your claim (i.e., court documents, police reports, medical reports, etc.)

--OR--

B. Received Financial Aid as an Independent Student in a Prior Year at GCC

Provide a brief description of your current situation and relationship with your parents.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

--AND--

Certification Statement (to be completed by all students)

I certify that the information submitted is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

________________________________________________________________________
Student's Signature
Date

________________________________________________________________________
Local Address    City, State    Zip    Telephone