

**WINTHROP UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID**

**Independent Status Confirmation
2026-2027**

You have been classified as an independent student based on information you reported on the FAFSA. However, before we can determine your eligibility for federal student aid, we must verify your status. Please mark the appropriate statement below and provide the documentation indicated. **Forms submitted without adequate documentation will not be processed.** Please visit www.winthrop.edu/finaid/verification for processing deadlines.

Student's Name _____ Winthrop ID Number _____

_____ **I became an orphan, a ward of the court, or was in foster care since I turned age 13.**

Check this status if you had no living parent (biological or adoptive) or if you were a dependent or ward of the court or in foster care at any time since you turned age 13, even if that is not your status as of today.

- Attach a copy of the death certificate for both parents, or
- Attach a copy of the document verifying that you were a dependent or ward of the court at age 13 or older, or
- Attach a copy of the document verifying that you were in foster care at age 13 or older.

_____ **I am an emancipated minor or am in a legal guardianship of someone other than parent/stepparent.**

Check this status only if you were declared by a court order to be an emancipated minor or in legal guardianship in your state of legal residence. This court order must have been in effect immediately before you reached the age of being an adult in your state. **Court orders listing legal custody are NOT the same as legal guardianship.**

- Attach a copy of the court order declaring your status as an emancipated minor, or
- Attach a copy of the court order stating you were in a legal guardianship immediately prior to reaching the age of being an adult in your state. Do not provide court orders **listing legal custody**.

_____ **I am an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or was self-supporting and at risk of being homeless *on or after July 1, 2025*.**

Check this status if you, *at any time on or after July 1, 2025*, were an unaccompanied youth (21 years of age or younger, not living in the physical custody of your parent or guardian) and had no fixed, regular or adequate housing, which includes living in shelters, motels or cars, or temporarily living with other people because you had nowhere else to go.

- Provide a written statement describing your current living situation, **AND**
- Attach documentation from your high school or school district homeless liaison verifying that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless, or
- Attach documentation from the director of an emergency shelter program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development verifying that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless, or
- Attach documentation from the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center, street outreach program, transitional living facility, program funded under subtitle B of title IV McKinney-Vento, TRIO, or GEAR UP verifying that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless, or
- Attach document from a financial aid administrator at another college who approved your circumstances in a prior aid year.

_____ **None of the statements above apply to me. Follow the instructions below:**

- Correct your FAFSA at fafsa.gov by answering NO to the questions in the Personal Circumstances/Other Circumstances section of the FAFSA.
- Provide parental information on the FAFSA. Your parent will need to sign FAFSA using their FSA ID.

If you feel that you have unusual circumstances not listed on this form, contact the Office of Financial Aid for assistance.

I declare that all of the information provided on this form is true and accurate. I understand that any false statements or misrepresentation will be the cause of denial, reduction, withdrawal and/or repayment of any financial aid.

Student's Signature

Date

Revised 01/13/26

149 McLaurin Hall, Rock Hill, SC 29733
(803) 323-2189 (phone) – (803) 323-2557 (fax) – finaid@winthrop.edu

Securely upload forms through Wingspan (Financial Aid – Upload Docs card)