

---

## Special Circumstances Appeal Instructions

**Special Circumstance appeals are reviewed for fall semester, July through October 31, 2008 and for spring semester, January through March, 2009.**

### For independent students

You may complete the Special Circumstances Appeal form if you are an independent student whose current financial situation is not accurately reflected by 2007 tax information. Your 2007 income is used to assess your financial need for the 2008-2009 school year, in accordance with federal laws and regulations. If your income is lower due to special circumstances, a financial aid administrator may be able to use estimated year 2008 income to calculate financial need. This financial situation may be due to loss of job, separation or divorce, death, unusual paid medical expenses, or other circumstances. Your appeal is complete only when you submit documentation that supports your circumstance to the Financial Aid Office. If any document is missing, your appeal will be returned to you immediately and will be considered only when you have resubmitted it with complete documentation. You must also submit a personal statement describing your circumstance.

**Documentation is an essential part of your appeal.**

**In addition, select one category from the following list that most closely describes your special circumstance. Read the description carefully and attach all of the documentation requested under that category.**

#### ■ Loss or reduction of employment

You and/or your spouse earned money in 2007 and have had a reduction in hours, or have lost employment for at least 10 weeks in 2008 that has resulted in a reduction of wages. **Ten (10) weeks** must have passed prior to submission of this appeal for either circumstance. Appeals submitted before 10 weeks will be returned.

**You must provide copies of all the following:**

-written verification from a former employer(s) that indicates start and end date of employment or reduction of hours and the amount of your (and your spouse's) year-to-date gross earnings, severance pay, vacation, or retirement payout;

-a written statement from your (or your spouse's) current or future employer(s) that indicates you or your spouse's expected gross earnings for the calendar year 2008. Include copies of your two most recent pay stubs.

-eligibility forms that indicate dates and amount of unemployment benefits.

#### ■ Separation, divorce, or death

You have already filed your annual *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) and since that time, you have become separated or divorced, or a spouse has died.

**You must provide copies of all of the following that apply to your circumstances:**

-legal separation papers or divorce decree;

-death certificate.

## ■ **Loss of taxed/untaxed income or benefit**

You and/or your spouse received unemployment compensation, or another taxed or untaxed income or benefit in 2007, and have completely lost that income or benefit for at least 10 weeks in the calendar year 2008. Ten (10) weeks without compensation must have passed prior to your submission of this appeal. Appeals submitted before 10 weeks will be returned. The untaxed income or benefit must be from a public or private agency, a company, or from a person due to court order. (Do not include loss of veterans benefits.) Income and benefits include: Social Security benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), child support, untaxed retirement or disability benefits, welfare benefits, etc.

### **You must provide copies of all of the following:**

-contracts, agency notices, or legal papers that indicate the date your taxed/untaxed income or benefit was terminated, what amount of income came from that source, and how that income was used.

## ■ **Loss of one-time income**

You and/or your spouse received a one-time income in 2007 that will not occur in 2008 (e.g., rollover into a Roth IRA, moving expense allowance, back-year Social Security payments, or a divorce settlement). Special circumstance consideration **will not** be given if this one-time income is a result of an inheritance, job bonus or overtime compensation, gambling winnings, pension, capital gain, insurance settlements, or early distributions of retirement accounts.

### **You must provide copies of all of the following:**

-contracts, agency notices, or legal papers that indicate the date your one-time income was terminated, what amount of income came from that source, and how that income was used.

## ■ **Unusual, unreimbursed medical care expenses**

### **NOTE: Only expenses already paid directly by you will be considered.**

Unexpected/nonrecurring medical expenses -- You and/ or your spouse have paid for unusual or unexpected nonrecurring medical expenses for a member of your household that are not reimbursed. Only those costs not covered by insurance or another agency may be considered.

The payment of insurance premiums, regular health maintenance, and routine expenses such as eyeglasses, birth control prescriptions, and elective or cosmetic procedures (e.g., orthodontic braces) are not considered unusual medical expenses and **will not** be considered for the Special Circumstances appeal.

### **You must provide copies of all of the following:**

-statement from a health care provider that documents the unusual condition;  
-receipts or copies of canceled checks that demonstrate payment of medical treatment for this condition.

## ■ **Tuition expenses for private elementary or secondary education**

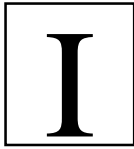
You and or your spouse pay elementary or secondary school tuition for a member of your family during the 2008-2009 academic year at a PRIVATE elementary or secondary school.

### **You must provide copies of all of the following:**

-school's enrollment contract that includes name(s) of your children enrolled during the academic year 2008-2009, tuition cost, and the amount of any scholarships that subsidize tuition.

# SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES APPEAL

Student Financial Aid  
 1136 University Circle  
 Ogden, UT 84408-1136  
 Phone: (801) 626-7569



## INDEPENDENT STUDENTS

Read the Special Circumstances Appeal Instructions carefully before completing this form. You must complete Sections 1, 2, & 3.

FAX: (801) 626-7408

### SECTION 1: Background

Student name (first, middle initial, last)

Social Security number

Date

Address (street or P.O. box, apartment number, city, state, ZIP Code)

### SECTION 2: Income source table

Year to date income

Rest of year income

Total income

#### Projection of income January 1 through December 31, 2008

1. Income earned from work by student (wages, salary, and tips, for example)

2. Income earned from work by spouse (wages, salary, and tips, for example)

3. Business, farm, or rental income

4. Unemployment compensation

5. Spousal maintenance

6. Child support

7. Welfare benefits (such as AFDC or TANF)

8. Veterans benefits

9. Social Security benefits (including SSI)

10. Workers' compensation

11. Short-term or long-term disability benefits

12. Severance pay

13. Withdrawal from retirement account

14. Other income (pension, annuity, rental income, housing allowance, bonuses)

Total expected income for 2008

### SECTION 3: Certification

To the best of my knowledge, the information in this appeal is true. I understand that misrepresentation of facts in connection with this appeal, whenever discovered, may be sufficient cause, in and of itself, for cancellation and repayment of financial aid. I understand that my federal tax return will be used to verify the current financial aid application information in the next aid year. **WARNING:** If you use this form to establish eligibility for federal student financial aid and purposely give false or misleading information, you may be fined \$20,000, sent to prison, or both.

Student signature

Date

Spouse signature

Date

**DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE**

ACTION: DENIED

APPROVED

FAA INITIALS

DATE

COMMENTS: