

Lakeland ID Number (LID)

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Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Most undergraduate students are considered dependent on their parents until age 24, so they must include parent financial information on the FAFSA to determine financial aid eligibility. However, if you have extenuating circumstances, you may qualify for independent status. *If you believe your situation meets the criteria (see below), please submit a dependency status appeal form.*

Extenuating circumstances can include (not limited to):

- Estrangement from parents
- Abuse or abandonment by parent(s) or guardian(s)
- Irreconcilable differences with your family
- Situations where it's unsafe for you to be in contact with parent(s) or guardian(s)

Extenuating circumstances do not include:

- Financial Self-sufficiency (living on your own)
- Parental refusal to provide FAFSA info or documents
- Student refusal to ask parents for FAFSA information
- Not being claimed as a dependent on parental taxes
- Parental refusal or inability to pay college expenses

Note: If you have a previously approved unusual circumstance (dependency) appeal, it will be renewed unless your unusual circumstance changed.

Please submit the following to complete your Appeal. All documentation must be received before your file can be reviewed.

- This completed form.**
- Signed personal statement:** Explain your extenuating circumstances in detail, your relationship with **biological or adoptive parents, and** how you will receive financial support for the 2026-2027 academic year. Be sure to sign your statement!
- Letter(s) of Explanation/Support:** A **separate** letter(s) signed by an independent, third-party (ex. judge, government official, case worker, clergy, medical authority, high school counselor) who can confirm your situation, with as much detail as possible.
- Financial Documentation.**
 - Be sure you submitted a 2026-2027 FAFSA on studentaid.gov.
 - Proof of income (one of the following):
 - **If you filed 2024 taxes,** provide one proof of income: FAFSA IRS data import or an IRS tax return transcript from irs.gov
 - **If you did not file 2024 taxes,** submit an IRS Income and Wage statement from irs.gov
 - **If you did not work/are not working,** submit supporting documents for who pays your expenses, how you're supported, and that you weren't required to file a 2024 tax return.
- (Circle one) YES/ NO:** Are you, or will you provide more than 50% of anyone else's financial support from 7/1/26-6/30/27? If yes, list their name(s), age(s), and relationship(s) to you below:

Statement of Certification

I certify that all the information reported is complete and accurate. Warning: If you purposely give false or misleading information on this form, you may be fined, sentenced to jail, or both. **Electronic signatures will not be accepted.**

Student's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Complete this appeal and return by:*

Secure Upload: Login to myLakeland, Student Self Service, under Financial Aid Self Service, Select Secure Document Upload.
In Person: Lakeland Student Service Center • Building A-1003

Fax: 440.525.7704
Mail: Lakeland Community College
7700 Clocktower Drive
Kirtland, OH 44094-5198

**Please do not send documents through email as it is not secure.*

For Office Use Only

NAI _____ Approved/ Denied Appeal: _____ Initials: _____

Sent for Corrections: Y N Date Sent: _____ Initials: _____