An **INDEPENDENT** student as determined by the Department of Education is one that meets one or more of the following guidelines:

1.) Age 24 at the time the student is filing for financial aid.
2.) Graduate or Professional student.
3.) Veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces or serving on active duty for purposes other than training as determined by the Veterans Administration.
4.) Married at the time the student is filing for financial aid.
5.) Has a dependent other than a spouse for whom the student provides 51% or more of their support.
6.) At any time since you turned 13, both your parents were deceased and you were in foster care or a dependent or ward of the court.
7.) You are or were an emancipated minor as determined by a court in your state of legal residence.
8.) You are or were in legal guardianship as determined by a court in your legal state of residence.
9.) Any time on or after **July 1, 2012** your high school or school district homeless liaison determined that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless.
10.) Any time on or after **July 1, 2012** the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determined you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless.
11.) Any time on or after **July 1, 2012** the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determined that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless.