CHAPTER 28-HIGHER EDUCATION RESOURCES AND STUDENT ASSISTANCE
DEFINITION OF INDEPENDENT STUDENT:

(d) Independent student

(1) Definition
The term "independent", when used with respect to a student, means any individual who-
(A) is 24 years of age or older by December 31 of the award year;
(B) is an orphan, in foster care, or a ward of the court, or was an orphan, in foster care, or a ward of the court at
any time when the individual was 13 years of age or older;
(C) is, or was immediately prior to attaining the age of majority, an emancipated minor or in legal
guardianships
determined by a court of competent jurisdiction in the individual's State of legal residence;
(D) is a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States (as defined in subsection (c)(1)) or is currently
serving on active duty in the Armed Forces for other than training purposes;
(E) is a graduate or professional student;
(F) is a married individual;
(G) has legal dependents other than a spouse;
(H) has been verified during the school year in which the application is submitted as either an unaccompanied
youth who is a homeless child or youth (as such terms are defined in section 725 of the McKinney-Vento
Homeless Assistance Act [42 U.S.C. 11434a]), or as unaccompanied, at risk of homelessness, and self-
supporting,by-

(i) a local educational agency homeless liaison, designated pursuant to section 722(g)(1)(J)(ii) of the
(ii) the director of a program funded under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act [34 U.S.C. 11201 et
seq.] or a designee of the director;
(iii) the director of a program funded under subtitle B of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless
Assistance Act [42 U.S.C. 11371 et seq.] (relating to emergency shelter grants) or a designee of the
director; or
(iv) a financial aid administrator; or
(I) is a student for whom a financial aid administrator makes a documented determination of
independence by reason of other unusual circumstances.