Maryland Higher Education Commission

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SPECIAL FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Appeal Criteria 2024-2025 Academic Year

Applicable Programs	Guaranteed Access Grant \ Educational Assistance Grant \ 2+2 Transfer Scholarship
2024-2025 Deadline to File Appeal	August 1, 2024

SPF Appeal Reasons	Required Documents
Death of parent or spouse	 Letter outlining the full reasons for appeal; Copy of the death certificate; Student and parent's 2022 and 2023 Federal IRS Tax Return Transcript or 1040 Signed Federal Tax Return W-2 forms
Separation or divorce (parent or student)	 Letter outlining the full reasons for appeal Copy of the separation agreement, divorce decree or other official evidence to prove the change in marital status has occurred Student and parent's 2022 and 2023 Federal IRS Tax Return Transcript or 1040 Signed Federal Tax Return W-2 forms
Complete <u>involuntary</u> unemployment that began on or after January 1, 2023 and continued for at least 10 consecutive weeks	 A letter outlining the full reasons for appeal; Written notice of involuntary job termination or layoff from former employer (loss of income from temporary positions, self-employment, or commissions may not be considered); If applicable copies of severance pay, and or/or any benefits, which will continue after dismissal. Copies of unemployment benefits or proof of denial of benefits; Copies of your last pay stub(s) from previous and/or current employers; Student and parent (or spouse for independent students) 2022 and 2023 Federal IRS Tax Return Transcript or 1040 Signed Federal Tax Return W-2 forms
Complete <u>voluntary</u> unemployment that began on or after January 1, 2023 and continued for at least 10 consecutive weeks	 A letter outlining the full reasons for appeal; Written notice of voluntary job termination from former employer (resignation letter may be considered); If applicable copies of severance pay, and or/or any benefits, which will continue after dismissal. Copies of your last pay stub(s) from previous and/or current employers; Student and parent (or spouse for independent students) 2022 and 2023 Federal IRS Tax Return Transcript or 1040 Signed Federal Tax Return W-2 forms
Loss of child support or social security benefits as a result of student reaching the age of majority	 A letter outlining the full reasons for appeal Documentation of the loss of child support (i.e. a court order or divorce decree); or the loss of social security benefits Student and parent's 2022 and 2023 Federal IRS Tax Return Transcript or 1040 Signed Federal Tax Return W-2 Forms (if applicable)