

# BENNINGTON COLLEGE

Financial Aid Office • One College Drive • Bennington, Vermont • 05201 • 802-440-4325 • fax 802-440-4880 • [finaid@bennington.edu](mailto:finaid@bennington.edu) • [www.bennington.edu](http://www.bennington.edu)

## Request for Review of Special Circumstances

Congress has given Professional Adjustment (PJ) authority to financial aid administrators under the Higher Education Act (HEA). PJ is a decision to alter the Expected Family Contribution when a special circumstance impacts a family's ability to contribute to the student's education. The financial aid administrator will review the explanation and supporting documentation *on a case-by-case basis*. It is expected that there will generally be one PJ for special circumstances during a student's undergraduate studies.

The FAFSA requests your IRS data from earnings two years prior, many things can change in the interim and we understand that the FAFSA doesn't always tell the whole story. If there are significant differences between the financial information on your IRS 1040 (with income confirmed) and your present financial situation, please explain briefly and attach any supporting documentation or affidavit from a non-family member (counselor, teacher, clergy, government agency, medical personnel, courts, or prison administrator).

- Foreclosure
- Unemployment since FAFSA tax year
- Separation, divorce, or death in the family
- Birth in the family
- Elder care or nursing home expenses not covered by insurance
- Loss of medical benefits
- Dependency override (section 480(d) of HEA)
- Granting SAP appeal (34 CFR668.16(e))
- Other charges incurred with Cost of Attendance
- Significant medical or dental expenses not covered by insurance
- IRA Rollover (shown on 1040 or box G on the W2)
- Property damage related to a natural disaster
- Other, please explain briefly \_\_\_\_\_

### Note:

- 1.) The FAFSA has already taken cost of living under consideration based on your home zip code.
- 2.) A parent's refusal or unwillingness to assist the student does not merit a dependency override or PJ.
- 3.) Credit card debt and/or prior student loans for parent or siblings will not merit a PJ.
- 4.) Special circumstances can only be considered when the income has been IRS confirmed through the Data Retrieval Tool on the FAFSA or by submitting an IRS Tax Return Transcript for the applicable tax year.
- 5.) Only requests with supporting documentation will be reviewed.

Student or custodial parent's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(electronic signatures not accepted)

Return this form to the Financial Aid Office in Barn 104 or send a scan/photo to [finaid@bennington.edu](mailto:finaid@bennington.edu) with the supporting documentation

FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATOR REVIEW	-----	Office Use Only	-----	Date of Review: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> IRS DRT or Tax Transcript submitted				
<input type="checkbox"/> Verification Complete		<input type="checkbox"/> PJ Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> No PJ Adjustment made	
<input type="checkbox"/> Documentation Received				
<input type="checkbox"/> Conflicting Information or C-codes resolved				
<input type="checkbox"/> Correction/update sent to Dept of Ed				

FAA Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Financial Aid Administrator