



**NONCUSTODIAL PARENT DECLARATION OF FINANCES**

GENERAL DIRECTIONS AND GUIDELINES

The **noncustodial** parent is generally the parent the student does **not** reside with, regardless of tax status. This parent (and current spouse if remarried) should fill out this form and not contribute to filling out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). In the event that the student splits time exactly 50% per year between parents (unusual), then the parent supplying greater than 50% of financial support (includes housing, food, utilities, etc.) independent of tax status is considered the custodial parent and should be the one assisting with the FAFSA and not be filling out this form. In the extremely rare circumstance where residency and expenses can accurately be portrayed as equal, then and only then is it the parent that might claim a dependent student on their tax form that is designated as the custodial parent and therefore that parent would ignore this form and fill out the FAFSA with the student. **Students are considered dependent in almost all cases by the Department of Education and colleges until they are 24.** Exceptions are almost exclusively limited to the student being a ward of the state, married, in graduate school or with a dependent child. The fact that a student does not live with a parent or does not receive financial support from them does not by itself grant him/her the status of independent. If a student lives on their own, generally the custodial parent would be the one they last lived with. If you feel there are special circumstances, please contact us.

Please submit this form with a signed copy of your most recent taxes (these are kept strictly confidential, even from the student, unless you check a release box). The first two pages of tax forms will do without attached schedules, etc., unless explicitly requested. Information gathered will be used to help determine if your son or daughter may qualify for institutional funds from the college and does not obligate you to any specific financial contribution. In the event that we do not collect adequate information from the noncustodial parent in a timely fashion, the student is likely to lose out on aid eligibility. At any time, if you have questions, please feel free to contact our office.

Signed documents for regular admission should be submitted to:

Financial Aid Office  
College of the Atlantic  
105 Eden Street  
Bar Harbor, ME 04609

Sincerely,  
Bruce Hazam  
Director of Financial Aid  
[bhazam@coa.edu](mailto:bhazam@coa.edu)  
207.801.5645