BUFFALO STATE
The State University of New York

2026-2027 Unaccompanied Homeless Verification

Banner ID: _____ **Student Phone:** _____

Name: _____ **Student Date of Birth:** _____

An unaccompanied Homeless student is a person who meets the McKinney-Vento education definition of homeless (lacking fixed, regular and adequate housing) and is not living in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

Unaccompanied Homeless Policy

On a case-by-case basis, students who are (1) unaccompanied and homeless or (2) self-supporting and at risk of being homeless may be deemed an independent student by the FAO through the Unaccompanied Homeless Verification process.

Unaccompanied Homeless Verification Process

Students must complete and return the Unaccompanied Homeless Verification Form along with supporting documentation to Buffalo State. Forms will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and all information will be kept confidential. The submission of the form does not guarantee the applicant will be deemed an independent student.

Upon receipt of the form, the FAO will review the student's circumstance and supporting documentation. Students who meet the definition of unaccompanied homeless will be deemed an independent student for the aid year. The FAO will notify students via their Buffalo State email address and permanent address of record. **The student's status will carry forward in subsequent years unless the student notifies the Financial Aid Office that they are no longer at risk for homelessness.**

Definitions

Unaccompanied – when a student is not living in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

Homeless – lacking fixed, regular, and adequate housing. For example, temporarily living with other people because he/she has nowhere else to go.

Self-supporting – when a student pays his/her own living expenses, including fixed, regular, and adequate housing.
At risk of being homeless – when a student's housing may cease to be fixed, regular, and adequate.

Parent – a student's biological or adoptive parent.

Housing

Fixed housing – stationary, permanent, and not subject to change.

Regular housing – used on a predictable, routine, or consistent basis.

Adequate housing – sufficient to meet both the physical and psychological needs typically met in a home.

Financial Aid Office | MH 230 | 1300 Elmwood Ave | Buffalo, NY 14222-1095

finaid@buffalostate.edu | (716) 878-4092 | fax (716) 878-4903

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Banner ID: _____ **Student Name:** _____

Federal Title IV regulations stipulate that a student is independent if at any time **on or after July 2, 2025**, he/she is determined to be an unaccompanied youth who is homeless or is self-supporting and at risk of being homeless. To be considered independent, you must demonstrate that you meet this definition.

Part 1: Homeless Youth Qualifying Questions: Answer all of the questions below. **At any time after July 1, 2025:**

A. ☐ Yes ☐ No Are you living in the physical custody of a parent or guardian?

B. ☐ Yes ☐ No Do you lack fixed, regular and adequate housing?

Part 2: Documentation to Support Homeless Determination

Can one of the following agencies provide documentation that **on or after July 1, 2025**, a determination was made that you are unaccompanied youth who is homeless or at risk of being homeless? **If you answer "Yes" to any question below, you must submit the documentation to the Financial Aid Office.**

A. ☐ Yes ☐ No A School District Homeless Liaison

B. ☐ Yes ☐ No The Director (or designee) of an Emergency Shelter or Transitional Housing Program (funded by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development)

C. ☐ Yes ☐ No The Director (or designee) of a Runaway or Homeless Youth Basic Center or Transitional Living Program

Part 3: Request for the Financial Aid Office to make Homeless Youth Determination

Only complete this section if you have answered **No** to all questions in Part 2.

A. Submit a Personal Statement

a. Attach a separate sheet and explain your living situation **on or after July 1, 2025**. You must demonstrate that you meet the **Unaccompanied Homeless definition**.

B. Provide your Contact Information for an in-person or telephone interview with the Financial Aid Office.

- If this is your first time requesting that the Financial Aid Office make a determination on your Unaccompanied Homeless Status, an interview is required.

a. Email address: _____

b. Cell Phone Number: _____

c. Availability (day of week / time of day): _____

d. Check one: ☐ In-Person Interview ☐ Telephone Interview

Part 4: Affirmation and Signature

☐ All the information provided is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

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