PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT: PLUS Exemptions 2014-2015 Application

Purpose

Parents who are approved for the Direct Parent PLUS loan may appeal to the institution to override the approval and process the student for the additional unsubsidized loan. Parents with an approved PLUS may appeal when they believe that, based on their financial circumstances, they would be unable to make the PLUS Loan payments. A PLUS exemption may also be done as a professional judgment when reviewing special circumstance appeals or in rare circumstances without a PLUS approval (parent incarcerated so never applied, parents are foreign or undocumented, etc.).

Process

Parents and students must complete the PLUS Exemption Appeal Form. The form must be signed by the student and the parent (except when the parent is unavailable). The appeal must include required documentation:

APPEAL REASON	DOCUMENTS REQUESTED
Unemployment	• Copy of parent's unemployment statement
Parent Incarceration	• Copy from Michigan Dept. of Corrections
Parent in Bankruptcy	• Copy of parent's summary page of Bankruptcy filing.
Parent Receives Public Assistance OR is on a fixed income	• Copy of parent's Bridge Card **OR** • Copy of parent's Medicaid Card **OR** • Copy of parent's statement of Welfare Benefits **OR** • Copy of parent's Social Security Benefits statement
Social Security Disability Benefits	• Copy of parent's SSI benefit statement
Other	• Attach appropriate 3rd party documentation that the parent is unable to repay the PLUS loan. • Letter explaining financial circumstances.

The appeal is reviewed by the ESFA Director or Associate Director. If approved, the student is awarded the additional unsubsidized loan up to $4000 (freshmen and sophomore) or $5000 (juniors and seniors) according to Federal Direct Loan program procedures. In Datatel, the additional eligibility flag must be set to "Y" on the DLAN screen of the Direct Loan Unsubsidized on the student's AIDE screen or the loan amount will err off at COD.

The appeal form and all supporting documentation is retained in iDOC imaging system.