Maryland Higher Education Commission Office of Student Financial Assistance 6 North Liberty Street, Ground Suite Baltimore, MD 21201 (410) 767-3300; (800) 974-0203 TTY for the Deaf - (800) 735-2258 www.mhec.maryland.gov

SPECIAL FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Appeal Criteria

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 2020 and 2021 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 2020 and 2021 Federal IRS Tax Return Transcript or 1040 Signed Federal Tax Return W-2 forms
Complete involuntary unemployment that begin on or after January 1, 2021 and continues for 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) 2020 and 2021 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 you 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 2020 and 2021 Federal IRS Tax Return Transcript or 1040 Signed Federal Tax Return W-2 Forms (if applicable)
Unemployment Benefits from 2020 Tax Year Included in Adjusted Gross Income	2020 Federal IRS Tax Transcript or 1040 Signed Federal Tax Return Proof of unemployment benefits