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

5th Year Appeal Criteria	Required Documents
Academic Program required 5 years of study	 Letter of explanation from student Official or Unofficial Transcript Letter from academic advisor
Serious illness or injury of student	 Letter of explanation from student Official or Unofficial Transcript Letter from physician
Serious illness of a member of the students immediate family	 Letter of explanation from student Official or Unofficial Transcript Letter from physician
Serious emotional difficulties of the student	 Letter of explanation from student Official or Unofficial Transcript Letter from advisor, social worker, psychologist, etc.
Extenuating financial circumstances beginning after January 1, 2023	 Letter of explanation from student Official or Unofficial Transcript 2022 Federal IRS Tax Return Transcript or 1040 Signed Federal Tax Return (student/parent) W-2 Forms (student/parent) Supporting documents: o Job termination or layoff of student and/or parent(s)/spouse (requires original letter from employer) o Termination of benefits notice from the issuing agency for student o Separation agreement of student and/or parent(s)/spouse o Divorce decree of student and/or parent(s)/