

Financial Aid



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Hello Fullerton College Students!

By the time you read this, the fall semester will be winding down. It has been a busy fall for the financial aid office, as we have had to continue to make changes to our processes due to new Federal requirements and regulations. We also rolled out a new Verification software late last spring, that many of you may have already used this year.



We are continuing to make changes in order to better streamline the process for you as a financial aid recipient, while continuing to ensure we adhere to ever evolving regulations. You will read about many of the changes that are upcoming in this newsletter. We are working on moving all our forms over to an electronic format, similar to what some of you have already used with the verification forms. The first form to be added will be the appeal form, followed by special conditions, dependency override, and the Direct Stafford Loan request form.

We are also trying to respond to your requests for additional information offerings. We are moving our FAFSA Lab series to each Friday to simplify the offerings and calendar. At the same time, we rolled out a long-requested on-line SAP workshop this past fall.

As the fall semester comes to an end, and the holidays are just upon us, please be sure to look out in 2015 for our spring financial aid newsletter, and to attend our spring Financial Aid Awareness events on campus, which always highlighted the latest changes and requirements for the upcoming school year.

Happy Holidays to you and your family,

Greg Ryan

Director of Financial Aid, Fullerton College

Cash Course

Written by Lourdes Oropeza and Teresita Guillen-Soto

This semester we have a new tool for student financial success. If you go to the Fullerton College Financial Aid Website, under What's New, you will find Cash Course. This exciting course will give you the necessary knowledge and tools needed to have a healthy financial status. Cash Course offers Money 101 where you learn the basics of banking, budgeting, credit, insurance, saving, and goal setting. You can go on to learn about paying for your education where they cover how to repay student loans and paying for graduate school. In addition, you will learn how to live within a budget, analyze the cost of buying a car and/or a house. Cash Course offers many financial tools and resources to help you become a financially successful individual. Go to <http://financialaid.fullcoll.edu/> and click on Cash Course to get started.



Changes to FAFSA Labs and Workshops

Written by Teresita Guillen-Soto

There will be changes to the FAFSA Labs and Financial Aid Workshops effective spring semester. We will have FAFSA Lab Fridays in room 611 starting January, 2015 to assist students with completing their FAFSA, California Dream Act Application, and student verification requirements.

Students are not required to sign up for FAFSA Labs. Students interested in attending a Financial Aid Workshop need to call (714) 888-7588 to sign up for the workshop they wish to attend. Go to the financial aid website to check the times and dates for FAFSA Labs and Financial Aid Workshops. Students are encouraged to visit the financial aid website and our Facebook for news and information. <http://financialaid.fullcoll.edu/>



It Pays to Go Green

Written by Korey Lindley

For the 2014/2015 academic year, the Financial Aid Office began the process of going green. Now the Financial Aid Office is happy to announce that in addition to all the verification requirements, students will soon be able to complete FERPAs, Appeals, Special Conditions, and Loan Requests online. Students will be able to access these requirements in the normal location on their myGateway, but now will be able to sign in or create an account online if you have not already done so @ fullcoll.verifymyfafsa.com and complete these documents. Students will have to complete their forms online along with upload any necessary requirements and provide electronic signatures. To help students with this transition of going paperless, the Financial Aid Office will continue to provide additional assistance with completing the online verification at our FAFSA Labs.



Automatic Consortium for Pell Grants Only

Written by Lourdes Oropeza and Teresita Guillen-Soto

Beginning Spring 2015, students taking classes at both Cypress College and Fullerton College will get paid for all the units without completing a consortium form. Students will receive their Pell Grant at their primary campus as long as they have a completed financial aid file, and are making Satisfactory Academic Progress. Read the SAP Policy on the financial aid website <http://financialaid.fullcoll.edu/>

Dream Act Application

Written by Lourdes Oropeza

On January 1, 2015 students will be able to complete the Dream Act Application for the 2015-2016 academic year at <https://dream.csac.ca.gov/> As a reminder, students must be classified as AB540 by Admissions and Records in order to apply. Completing the application will give the students the opportunity to compete for a Cal Grant, in addition they will be considered for a fee waiver, if eligible.

The California Dream Act Application can only be completed by students who meet the following qualifications:

- Students who cannot file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Attended at least three full years in a California public or private high school
- Graduated from a California high school or attained the equivalent prior to the start of the college term, (e.g., a High School Equivalency Certificate from the California GED Office or Certificate of Proficiency resulting from the California High School Proficiency Exam (CHSPE)), and, if they are without lawful immigration status, have an affidavit with Fullerton

College Admissions and Records stating they have filed an application to legalize their immigration status, or will file an application as soon as they are eligible to do so.

As a reminder, Dream Act students are eligible to submit their application to be considered for the Entitlement Cal Grant only. That means they must apply between January 1 and March 2 of their senior year in high school or the year after they graduated from high school. As community college students, Dream Act students are eligible to apply for the entitlement transfer Cal Grant between January 1 and March 2 before transferring to a 4 year school. The student must have graduated from high school after 7-1-2000, not yet reach the age of 28 years old, and have a minimum GPA of 2.40.

SAP/ Appeal Process

Written by Maria G. Aguirre

As many students have already experienced this fall 2014 semester, the Financial Aid Office has a new and exciting process for all students who need to appeal for financial aid. Students now have the option of attending the mandatory SAP Workshop in a classroom presentation or completing the SAP Workshop On-Line. If you choose to complete the On-Line Workshop, you may do so at the following link: <http://fullerton.fatvcounseling.com/?p=getsap>

Once students have completed the classroom or On-Line Workshop, their appeal will be posted within 24 working hours. All students must have Fullerton College as their home campus and a completed financial aid file in order for the appeal to post on their myGateway Account.

Please submit the required supporting documentation to the Financial Aid Office (I.E. SEPP or Extenuating Circumstances documents: doctor notes, death certificates, police reports, etc.) as soon as possible once the on-line financial aid appeal has been completed.

ONLY STUDENTS WHO ARE DISQUALIFIED AND RECEIVED A NOTICE FROM THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE IN THEIR MYGATEWAY ACCOUNT UNDER PERSONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS; WILL HAVE ACCESS TO THE LINK TO THE ONLINE SAP WORKSHOPS.

All other students are able to view our On-Line General SAP Information on the Financial Aid Website.

Please NOTE- for SPRING 2015:

Due to the high volume of students who have utilized the On-Line SAP Workshop this current fall 2014 semester; during the spring, 2015 semester, we will only offer two (2) classroom SAP Workshops.

Also, Once SAP runs for the spring 2015 semester, students who are over 90 units and will be completing a Change of Major must make an appointment to see the Financial Aid Academic Counselor, Harold Anderson, as soon as possible. Please call us in early January 2015 at 714.888.7588 to schedule an appointment with Harold if you are over 90 units or plan on changing your major.

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