Financial Aid

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Financial Aid Highlights

The Financial Aid Office is always evolving and improving services for our students. This academic year was no exception. We started the academic year by providing students with workshops in the summer about the changes to financial aid that would impact them. Those changes included the Lifetime Eligibility Used for Pell, the changes to our SAP process and policy, and the need for our students to have a high school diploma or GED in order to receive financial aid.

We also introduced the QLess system, which allows students to enter a virtual line from their cell phone, the kiosk at the Financial Aid Office front counter, and the web. Once students enter the virtual line, they do not have to wait in the Financial Aid Office lobby. QLess will send them a text message near the end of their estimated wait time.

The Financial Aid Office participated in many outreach activities during the year. The most notable were the Stem Conference, the AB 540 Workshops, La Habra Goes to College, Cash for College at Anaheim and Buena Park High Schools, Dream Act Workshops at CSUF, and the 4th Annual College and Career Fair at the Anaheim Convention Center.

We continue to develop more workshops to better help our students. The new workshops this semester were the Higher One to help students understand the delivery of their monies, and Viewing Financial Aid in myGateway.

What's New in Financial Aid?

Fullerton College Financial Aid Awareness Week took place April 8-12, 2013. The outreach staff had an informational table every day, conducted one FAFSA Lab, and four workshops to inform students of upcoming changes to financial aid regulations and processes for 2013-2014.

- Pell Grant Award increase from $5,550 to $5,645
- Maximum Pell EFC will increase from 4995 to 5081
- In order for students to be paid for classes enrolled at Cypress College, a Consortium must be submitted to Fullerton College Financial Aid Office before the freeze date
- Students taking classes at Cypress College must complete BOG Fee Waiver at Cypress College
- Dependent students no longer required to submit BOG Fee Waiver parent signature page, electronic signature only
- Dream Act Students can apply for BOG Fee Waiver on myGateway
- Loan Origination Fee increase from 1% to 1.051% effective 3/1/13
- Subsidized Loans limited to 150% of program length effective 7/1/13
- Subsidized Loan interest rate to increase from 3.4% to 6.8% effective 7/1/13
- Once student completes AA/AS or Certificate, no longer eligible for financial aid at Fullerton College without an approved appeal
- If selected for verification, Department of Education will assign student to specific V group and student only needs to submit documents pertaining to their V group

- If a student has received financial aid at various colleges in the last three years, they may be flagged by the Department of Education, and the student will be required to submit official transcripts to financial aid from all colleges attended

Did You Know?

During the 2012-2013 academic year $19,955,246.82 was paid in Pell Grant to 6,170 students; $1,099,880.00 in Cal Grant B funds were paid to 1,148 students; $1,984.00 in Cal Grant C funds paid to 8 students; and $220,000.00 in SEOG funds paid to 491 students. In addition to that, we disbursed $1,426,324.00 in Subsidized Student loans to 574 students as well as $1,122,056.00 in Unsubsidized Student loans to 378 students.

Options for Submitting Documents to Financial Aid

In an effort to simplify the process for our students and save them time, it is no longer necessary for students to sign into QLess to submit their financial aid documents. Now, a student could just submit their documents via email, fax, or drop them into our blue mail box.

The only reason a student needs to sign into QLess and wait to be assisted at the counter is if they are asked to bring in their Immigration Certificate, Passport, or Educational Purpose Form. If a student is unable to appear in person at the Financial Aid Office to verify their Identity, the student must submit a copy of a valid government-issued identification and the original Notarized Statement of Educational Purpose form. Students who have been flagged by the Department of Education because they have received financial aid at various colleges in the last three years must submit official transcripts to the Financial aid Office.

SAP Workshops

The financial aid outreach staff conducted 23 Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Workshops between fall and spring semesters to provide disqualified students an opportunity to appeal. The Fullerton College SAP Policy, appeal eligibility, and the process to submit an appeal were explained. 502 students attended the SAP workshops between the fall and spring semesters, and 325 appeals were approved. Appeals are offered during a specified timeframe in the fall and spring semester only. Students are encouraged to be aware of their progress by checking their unofficial transcripts and their SAP status in myGateway.

Changes to Verification

Dependent and Independent students may be selected for verification and assigned a V group by the Department of Education. The student only needs to submit the required documents pertaining to their V group. Required documents may include:
- Tax Return Transcripts for Parent and Student
- Number of Household Members and Number in College
- SNAP Benefits
- Child Support Paid
- High School Completion
- Identity and Statement of Educational Purpose

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