A New Way to Appeal your Financial Aid

Written by Maria Aguirre

As many of you have experienced this spring 2015 semester; there is a new way to appeal for your financial aid. It’s quick and easy! In the past, once grades had posted and you had received a targeted announcement from the Financial Aid Office in your myGateway Account, you were given the following instructions.

OLD: Make an “in-classroom” appointment for a 1 ½ hour SAP Workshop. After 24-48 hours, your appeal would post to your myGateway Account and then you would be able to appeal on-line.

OLD: After the SAP Workshop, if you were over 90 units / Change of Major, you were required to make an appointment with our Financial Aid Counselor.

OLD: Deliver supporting documentation for your extenuating circumstances or SEPP to our office drop box.

All this had to be completed before we started processing your appeal - a process that took anywhere from 6-8 weeks. UGH!!!

So what’s NEW? Thanks to the wonderful innovative idea of our Financial Aid Director and collaboration with the North Orange Card, our office is excited to share a new process for this spring 2015 semester and we look forward to several new changes for the next school year that will further streamline the aid delivery process.

Have a great semester,

Greg Ryan
Director of Financial Aid, Fullerton College

continued on page 2
efforts of NOCCCD, FATV and Campus Logic, the appeal process only takes 7-10 days.

At the end of each semester, once grades are posted and SAP has run, you will receive an announcement from the Financial Aid Office regarding your SAP Status. The notification gives you your current and accurate SAP Status as well as the SAP Policy. You will no longer have to sit in a classroom for a 1 1/2 hour to meet the SAP Workshop requirement. The notification will present you with a link that will take you to the SAP Workshop online. How wonderful is that! You will log in with your current myGate way credentials to view the online workshop. All appeals will post within 24-48 business hours from the completion of the online workshop.

The prior SAP notification will inform you that once the SAP Workshop is complete and the appeal has been posted, you will be able to access the link to complete the appeal electronically. The appeal form will be available at the verifymyfafsa website. If you completed verification (your financial aid file), you will use your same username and password to access your appeal form. If you were not selected for verification, you will need to select the “Create Account” link. All students must complete a FAFSA Application and have a complete financial aid file in order to have their appeal processed.

After passing the quiz from the SAP Workshop, students who need to appeal for maximum time frame/change of major (COM) will need to meet with our Financial Aid Academic Counselor. Students may make an appointment to see our counselor by contacting our office at 714.888.7588.

As always, supporting documentation is required in the form of proof of extenuating circumstances or your SEPP Form from the Financial Aid Counselor. We will no longer accept these in hard copy in the blue drop box, via fax or at the counter. Any submissions will be discarded. You will be required to upload all documentation using a scanner, smartphone, or PDF documents via the verifymyfafsa portal. It is through this portal when the proper documentation is provided to the Financial Aid Office, that we are able to expedite the process of your appeal for you.

Students who have gone through the appeal process this spring semester have already noticed the rapid process from the time they viewed the SAP Workshop and passed the quiz to the time they received their appeal results. It was not 6-8 long weeks, but only 7-10 business days!

For those of you who are not on financial aid or do not need to appeal, but would like some information regarding Satisfactory Academic Progress or see what our SAP Workshop is about, please check out our “General SAP Workshop NOT for APPEALS” link on our Financial Aid Webpage.

Thank you students for being patient with us during this transition while we work to improve procedures for you. Have a wonderful semester!

More Forms on the Student Verification Software
Written by Teresita Guillen-Soto

The use of the Student Verification software has had so much success that more forms will now be added. Student Verification software allows students to upload documents which eliminates the need to come to the Financial Aid Office to drop off documents. The software has allowed for faster processing of student files which has resulted in students receiving their financial aid disbursement sooner.

Effective spring 2015, students can complete their SAP appeals online, and upload SEPP Forms and extenuating circumstances documents for their appeal through the Student Verification software. Beginning summer 2015, student will submit Special Conditions, Dependency Overrides, and loan requests through Student Verification software as well. Staff provides assistance with Student Verification during FAFSA Lab Fridays. Make sure to check the Financial Aid website for dates and times.

Know your options with the North Orange Card
Written by Lourdes Oropeza

When you receive your financial aid disbursement, you always have the option to have it deposited to the North Orange Card or to your personal bank account. If you already received your first disbursement onto the North Orange card, you can elect to have your second disbursement deposited to your personal checking account. It is easy and you can switch anytime! Contact Higher One at 1-877-305-3977 or go to northorangecard.com for assistance.
Financial Aid Outreach
Written by Lourdes Oropeza

The Fullerton College Financial Aid office has been busy since the beginning of fall 2014 offering FAFSA Labs, and different Financial Aid Workshops on campus. The office has also participated in the Annual La Habra Goes to College and Buena Park Goes to College events that offer financial aid presentations to students from different high schools. In December, we started presenting financial aid information to local high schools. This Spring Semester we have participated in a Cash for College event at Anaheim High School, and will continue to do presentations to parents and students at Sonora High School in La Habra, Loara High School in Anaheim, and the Tiger Wood Center in Anaheim. On campus, we continue assisting the students conducting various workshops and tabling different events. For example, the EOPS/Care Conference, the Dream Act Workshops (partnering with the Transfer Center), the STEM Summit at Sunny Hills High School, and the Family High School Night. Also, during the month of April we will be having Financial Aid Awareness Week. Please join us and enjoy a root beer float!

Accommodating Learning Preferences
Written by Teresita Guillen-Soto

The Financial Aid Office has options to accommodate your learning preferences. Students may prefer to watch videos and/or use social media as a means of learning. When you go onto the Financial Aid website, http://financialaid.fullcoll.edu, you will see the various options available to obtain financial aid information.

Become a Fullerton College Financial Aid fan on Facebook and follow us on Twitter to obtain pertinent information. If you like using Twitter, FAFSA is also available on Twitter. If you prefer to watch videos, you can watch videos on the Federal Student Aid YouTube channel to learn about types of federal aid. When you click on Federal Student Aid from the Fullerton College Financial Aid website, you will be directed to visual.ly where you will find infographics related to federal student aid. Get answers to your questions by watching short videos on Financial Aid TV which are organized by topic. Students can use Cash Course which has a suite of money management and financial literacy information. In addition, download the CSAC mobile app at www.mobilegallery.ca.gov, which will guide you the nearest Cash for College Workshop and to social media assets. The California Student Aid Commission has the Fund Your Future magazine at fundyourfuture.org and a text back campaign at 335577 where you can get answers to your questions.

There are many options to accommodate your learning preferences. Go to the Fullerton College Financial Aid website and use what suits your learning style!
Welcome New Staff and Meet Our Work Study Students

Hi there! My name is Kierra Lewis and I am the new Administrative Assistant for the Financial Aid office. I am a transplant from the rainy state of Oregon and couldn't be happier that I am now drowning in sunshine. I received my Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociocultural Anthropology from The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington. From there, I worked in administrative roles within various departments such as marketing and HR. I am very excited to be with NOCCCD and will do my best to serve the students, faculty, and staff of Fullerton College. Have a great semester!

Welcome to the spring 2015 semester! My name is Isis Delgado. I have been working at the Financial Aid Office for approximately one year. I enjoy offering assistance and help to students that may have a difficult situation or problems. As I know from firsthand experience the importance of that help while attending school and the additional daily stresses. I am pursuing a degree in Kinesiology and hoping to transfer in the spring of 2016. I am looking forward to obtaining not only a Bachelor’s, but also a Master’s degree that I can use to reach my ultimate goal of being a Physical Therapist at the Children’s Hospital of LA.

Hello my name is Rosemary Vilchis and this is my third year at Fullerton College. I will be transferring to CSUF in fall 2015 to pursue my bachelor’s degree in Human Services. After that, I plan on going to CSULB for my Master’s in Educational Counseling. In the future, I hope to work as an Academic Counselor for either a high school or a college. I have been working at the Financial Aid Office for about 2 years and I truly enjoy it. Working with students is great, and as a student it is definitely nice knowing the ins and outs of financial aid.

My name is Nahum Jaimes [ney-huh m]. I’ve been working at the financial aid office for two months. My goal this semester is to boost up my GPA, right now it is okay but I want it exceptional. I also want to get my A+ Certificate which would certify me as a computer technician. My goal is to graduate with a Bachelor’s degree in Computer Science and maybe get a job as a web developer. I’m tired of seeing websites that are not compatible with cellphones and tablets.

My name is Ismail Khan and I have been working for the Financial Aid Office for 4 months now. My current major at Fullerton College is Speech, and I plan on transferring to Cal State University of Fullerton. Once I transfer to CSUF, I plan on majoring in Human Services and receiving a minor in Speech Development. For my career, I would like to become a school counselor or speech counselor. You could say I have quite a passion for learning and developing one’s self, and having a career in which I can help people achieve that would be a dream career for me.
Financial Aid Awareness Week
April 6 - 10, 2015

Learn About Upcoming Financial Aid Changes

**MON.**
4/6/15
Financial Aid Informational Table Outside Transfer Center
From 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**TUES.**
4/7/15
Financial Aid Workshop
Room 229 From 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

**THURS.**
4/9/15
Financial Aid Informational Table Outside Transfer Center
From 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**FRI.**
4/10/15
FAFSA Lab
Room 611 From 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

*Look for our information table Monday and Thursday outside the Transfer Center

Come by for information and get a root beer float!

Financial Aid Office
321 E. Chapman Ave., Fullerton, CA 92832
(714) 888-7588
1. Maximum Pell Grant award will increase from $5,730 to $5,775
2. Maximum Pell Grant EFC will increase from 5157 to 5198
3. Due to sequestration, loan fees will increase on new loans December 1
4. There will be no alternative/private loans in 2015/2016
5. Beginning summer 2015, all forms including Special Conditions, Dependency Overrides, and loan requests will be electronic on the Student Verification Software
6. Beginning fall 2016, there will be limitations similar to SAP for receiving the BOG Fee Waiver. Detailed communication will be forthcoming fall 2015
7. Fullerton College Financial Aid has an auto consortium with Cypress College
8. Students will be allowed one major change for maximum time-frame appeals
   *Previously approved appeals will be grandfathered in until students are done with same major*
9. Cash Course, a suite of money management/financial literacy, is on the Financial Aid website
10. CSAC has a text back campaign, dial 335577, ask FAFSA questions and get answers
11. Download the CSAC mobile app at www.mobilegallery.ca.gov
    It will guide you the nearest Cash for College Workshop and to social media assets
12. Find links on the Fullerton College Financial Aid website to Federal Student Aid YouTube channel, FAFSA Twitter, and Federal Student Aid visually

Financial Aid Office
321 E. Chapman Ave., Fullerton, CA 92832
(714) 888-7588
FAFSA FRIDAYS ASSISTANCE LABS

Fridays, January-May 2015

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ALL LABS ARE IN ROOM 611

Labs are offered and conducted by the Fullerton College Financial Aid Office.

IF YOU ARE FILING A 2014-2015 FAFSA, YOU WILL NEED YOUR 2013 TAX INFORMATION.
IF YOU ARE FILING A 2015-2016 FAFSA, YOU WILL NEED YOUR 2014 TAX INFORMATION.

You are encouraged to choose the IRS Data Retrieval Match on the FAFSA.

The following documents are needed in order to complete the FAFSA application on line:
- Your Social Security Card and Driver’s License/State Identification Card.
- Your Alien Registration Card (if you are not a U.S. Citizen).
- Your 2013 or 2014 Federal income tax return and W2 forms.
- If you are a dependent student: your parent’s Social Security Number, Date of Birth, and Date of Marital Status and your Parent’s 2013 or 2014 Federal income tax return and W2 forms.

Note: If you do not come prepared with the required documents in order to complete your application, you will not be able to attend the lab session, and will need to return at another date when you have the documents. Please make Child Care arrangements in advance, as children cannot be allowed in the classroom. Labs are limited to the first 15 people who show up, due to limited computers available.

If you have already submitted your 2014-2015 or 2015-2016 FAFSA application and need assistance retrieving your application to choose the IRS Data Retrieval Match, you will be assisted in the lab. Bring your 2013 or 2014 taxes and your parents taxes as applicable.

Please plan to arrive on time. Students will not be allowed to attend if they arrive late.
Financial Aid Workshops: The workshops will be by appointment only. Call (714) 888-7588 to schedule the date and time of the workshop you want to attend. If there are no sign-ups 48 hours before the workshop start time, the workshop will be cancelled.

Our 2014 - 2015 Financial Aid Workshop offerings are as follows:

Tuesday, October 28, 2014  1:00-2:30 pm  Room 229  Scholarship Part II
Wednesday, November 5, 2014  10:00-11:30 am  Room 229  Money Management
Tuesday, December 2, 2014  10:00-11:30 am  Room 229  Financial Aid Workshop
Wednesday, January 14, 2015  1:00-2:30 pm  Room 229  Higher One Workshop
Tuesday, January 20, 2015  10:00-11:30 am  Room 229  Viewing FA in myGateway
Thursday, February 5, 2015  1:00-2:30 pm  Room 229  Scholarship Part I
Tuesday, February 17, 2015  10:00-11:30 am  Room 229  Scholarship Part II
Wednesday, March 4, 2015  1:00-2:30 pm  Room 229  Money Management
Tuesday, April 7, 2015  1:00-2:30 pm  Room 229  Financial Aid Workshop
Wednesday, April 22, 2015  10:00-11:30 am  Room 229  Viewing FA on myGateway
Thursday, May 7, 2015  1:00-2:30 pm  Room 229  Higher One Workshop

Financial Aid Workshop: (Find out application tips, deadline dates, and an overview of what has changed. This workshop is beneficial whether you are new to Fullerton College or planning on graduating and transferring to a university.)

Scholarship Workshop Part I: (Find out what Scholarships are, what are offered, the differences between internal and external scholarships, scholarship search tools, and much more!)

Scholarship Workshop: Part II: The Autobiography: (Nothing makes a student procrastinate more than the Autobiography. Also known as the Personal Statement, come find out what to include, where to go for assistance, and tips for saving you time!)

Money Management Workshop: (At this lively, interactive workshop, you will learn the basics of credit reports, identity theft, establishing and maintaining your credit, and other money management issues. Learn how to create a budget you can stick to, and still enjoy life at the same time!)

Higher One Workshop: This workshop is designed to inform students about the North Orange Card and the options for disbursement.

Viewing Financial Aid Information in Your myGateway Account: This workshop is designed to teach students to access financial aid information, messages, and documents in myGateway.

Please plan to arrive on time. Students will not be allowed to attend if they arrive late.