

Stay Aid Eligible: Take Classes That Count

Financial Aid



Starting in Fall 2027, a new federal requirement called Course Program of Study (CPOS) will take effect and may impact financial aid eligibility for Fullerton College students. Although the changes begin in the 2027-2028 academic year, students should start preparing now by learning what CPOS means and how it may affect them.

What Is CPOS

Course Program of Study (CPOS) is a federal regulation that requires students to take classes that apply to their officially declared major, degree, or certificate program to qualify for financial aid. Under CPOS, if a course does not count toward a student's program of study, it may not be eligible for Pell Grants, Federal student loans, Cal Grant, Student Success Completion Grant (SSCG), and more.

This means students will need to stay on track with their academic plan - both to graduate on time and to receive their full financial aid package.

Why It Matters

In the past, students could take a variety of courses, even those not related to their major, without losing financial aid eligibility. With CPOS, financial aid will now be calculated based only on classes that directly support a student's educational goal.

If a student enrolls in courses outside of their declared program, those units won't be counted toward their financial aid enrollment status. This could result in receiving less financial aid if not enrolled in courses directly related to the student's program.

How Students Can Prepare

Although CPOS won't officially begin until Fall 2027, there are steps students can take right now to stay ahead:

1. Review and Update Program of Study

Students should ensure their declared major or program aligns with their academic and career goals. If not, they should meet with an academic counselor as soon as possible.

2. Follow an Updated Educational Program Plan

Having a current Student Educational Program Plan (SEPP) is critical. This plan outlines the courses needed to complete a student's program and ensures those courses are eligible for financial aid under CPOS rules.

3. Be Strategic During Registration

Before registering for each semester, students should confirm that all selected courses align with their SEPP. Courses that aren't part of the plan may not be covered by financial aid.

4. Stay Informed

The Financial Aid Office will continue to share updates as more guidance is released. Students should keep an eye on their email, check the Financial Aid website, or stop by in person closer to the start of Fall 2027 registration.

When It Starts

CPOS will begin in Fall 2027, for the 2027-2028 financial aid year. While that may seem far off, preparing early will help students avoid last-minute surprises and stay fully eligible for aid.

More Information Coming Soon

The Financial Aid Office is preparing for the implementation of CPOS and will share more information as details are finalized. In the meantime, students are encouraged to attend the Stay Aid Eligible: Take Classes That Count webinars. All webinars will include a live presentation and Q&A session. Recordings of the webinars will be available on our website for later viewing. View the [Fall 2026 Financial Aid Webinars](#) flyer or visit our website for details.

Fall 2027 may seem far away, but with the right steps now, students can stay on track and make the most of their financial aid. Stay tuned for more CPOS news!

