

## IMPORTANT CHANGES IN FINANCIAL AID FOR 2012-2013

### FAFSA PROCESS

All students applying for financial aid for the 2012-13 school year should be informed of the following changes involving FAFSA and the Verification process:

**IRS Data Retrieval-** when filling out the FAFSA, Pensacola State College strongly recommends all students, parents, and spouses (if applicable) to upload the 2011 income tax information to their FAFSA using the **IRS Data Retrieval tool**. In order to do so, all parties must have already filed 2011 taxes, at least two weeks prior to filling out the FAFSA.

**Verification-**students who are selected for verification will be required to:

- Complete and submit the Verification Worksheet.  
<http://www.pensacolastate.edu/students/studentFormsApps.asp>
- Submit an official Tax Return Transcript obtainable from the IRS at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) after the 2011 Tax Return has been filed. **(This is NOT required if the IRS Data Retrieval tool was used).**
- Submit Tax Return Transcripts for student's or parent's spouse's (not separated) but file income tax separately.

**Note:** Pensacola State College can no longer accept a signed copy of a Tax Return form filed with the IRS to complete the verification process.

### PELL GRANT:

- Maximum award remains at \$5550 for full time enrollment for an academic year.
- The amount of Federal Pell Grant funds a student may receive over his or her lifetime is limited by a new federal law to be the equivalent of six years of Pell Grant funding. Since the maximum amount of Pell Grant funding a student can receive each year is equal to 100%, the six-year equivalent is 600%. Please visit <http://studentaid.ed.gov/about/announcements/recent-changes> to read about the Pell Grant Lifetime Eligibility Limit.
- Automatic zero EFC income threshold reduced to **\$23,000** from the current \$30,000 auto zero calculation applies only to EFC calculation for dependent students (based on parent income) and independent students with dependents other than a spouse (based on the combined income of the student and spouse).

## Retaking Course Work

- New Federal regulations allow only one retake of a course that has already been successfully passed.  
CAUTION: The course you retake will not replace the previous successfully passed course with the same course code on your transcript nor in the recalculation of your grade point average. **Repeat courses will count toward your attempted hours for financial aid purposes.**
- Students who were unsuccessful in their first attempt of a course may retake the course using their federal aid eligibility. **Students who fail courses the first time and then repeat them will use up their limited eligibility and will quickly have problems meeting the standards required of them for Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress for continued eligibility.**

## HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

Can I receive federal aid if I don't have a standard high school diploma or my GED?

- No.
- The Ability to Benefit test option for establishing general student eligibility for Title IV funds has been eliminated for students who first enroll in a program of study beginning with the 2012-2013 academic year.

## DIRECT LOANS

What changes were made to Direct Loans?

- Interest subsidies during the six month grace period are eliminated for new Stafford Loans made on or after July 1, 2012. The repayment period still begins six months after the student is no longer enrolled at least half-time, but interest accrues during those six months will be payable by the student rather than subsidized by the federal government.
- Interest rate on Direct Subsidized Loans **both** subsidized and unsubsidized will increase from 3.4% to 6.8% for disbursements made on or after July 1, 2012.