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Important Update: 2012-2013 Federal Financial Aid Changes

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide students and their parents with information on changes to the Title IV student assistance programs by Section 309 of the Department of Education Appropriations Act, 2012 (Title III of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 - Public Law 112-74).

On December 23rd, 2011, President Obama signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012. The new law significantly impacts the Federal student aid programs authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA). This newsletter provides information on the changes made to various Title IV student aid programs, such as Pell, Ability to Benefit, Direct

Loan subsidies and grace period allowances.

CHANGES:

- **Auto-Zero EFC Income Threshold** - this new law has reduced the income threshold for an automatic zero expected family contribution (EFC) from \$30,000 to \$23,000 for the 2012-2013 award year.
- **2012-2013 Federal Pell Grant Amounts** - this new law includes funds to establish the maximum Federal Pell Grant award for 2012-2013 Award Year. Thankfully, due to section 401 (b)(7) which provides for an automatic increase to the appropriated Federal Pell Grant maximum award for 2012-2013 of \$690, resulting in a 2012-2013 maintenance of the

maximum annual award of \$5,550 or \$2,775 per semester.

- **Minimum Federal Pell Grant Award and Maximum EFC** - this new law and amendments to HEA has changed the minimum Federal Pell Grant award calculation. Therefore, beginning with the 2012-2013 award year, students will not receive a Federal Pell Grant if they are not eligible for at least ten percent of the maximum award for the academic year. To simplify, anyone with an EFC greater than 4995 will no longer be eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant for 2012-2013.
- **Federal Pell Grant Duration of Eligibility** - this new law and amendment will reduce the duration of a -

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Important Update 2012-2013 Federal Financial Aid Changes, cont.,

student's eligibility to receive a Federal Pell Grant from 18 semesters (or it's equivalent) to 12 semesters (or it's equivalent). The calculation of the duration of a student's eligibility will include all years that a student received a Federal Pell Grant funding. This change in duration is not limited to students who received their first Federal Pell Grant on or after 2008-2009 award year, as the HEA previously provided when the duration of eligibility was 18 semester. The federal government will calculate the equivalency by adding together each of the annual percentages of a student's scheduled award that was actually disbursed to the student. For example, a student whose 2011-2012 Federal Pell Grant scheduled award was \$5,550 for a typical fall and spring full-time enrollment, but that student only attended and received \$2775 because the student was only enrolled for one semester, will have used only 50% of that award year's scheduled award. The federal government is implementing new provisions to communicate to impacted students and their schools when the student has reached the 12 semester limit, or is close to that limit.



NEW Changes:

**New Auto-Zero
EFC to be
\$23,000.**

**Pell Duration of
Eligibility to
change from 18
to 12 semesters
(or it's equivalent)**

- **Grace Period Interest Subsidy** - this new law will temporarily eliminate for two years the interest subsidy provided on Direct Subsidized Loans during the six month grace period provided to students when they are no longer enrolled on at least a half-time basis. This change will be effective for new Direct Stafford Loans for which the first disbursement is made on or after July 1, 2012, and before July 1, 2014.
- **Ability to Benefit** - this new law will eliminate Federal student aid eligibility for students who do not have a high school diploma or a recognized equivalent (e.g., GED), or do not meet the home school requirements, and who first enroll in a program of study on or after July 1, 2012. These students will not be eligible to receive Title IV student aid.
- **Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)** - Federal financial aid regulations require that in order to receive aid students must make Satisfactory Academic Progress towards completion of a degree. At the end of each academic year, the Office of Financial Aid conducts an academic review in order to measure student performance against these regulations. There are three main criteria a student must meet in order to achieve Satisfactory Academic Progress; ***qualitative, quantitative*** and ***maximum timeframe allowed***. Please refer to the chart on the following page for additional guidance.

For further assistance please:

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Financial Aid @ the Enrollment Services Center - Lobby of the West Quad Center.

Email us!

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Federal Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Rules and Regulations

Brooklyn College students must satisfy the following qualitative and quantitative academic standards in order to remain eligible for federal financial aid. These qualitative and quantitative standards refer to the following Title IV Federal Aid programs: Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), Federal Work-Study, loan programs and any future Federal Financial Aid programs.

Brooklyn College students will be measured against the Federal financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Standards at the end of each spring semester in order to determine eligibility for the upcoming year.

Qualitative Standard:

Undergraduate students – Students must achieve the following Grade Point Average (GPA) at Brooklyn College:

0-12 attempted credits = 1.50 GPA required
 13-24 attempted credits = 1.75 GPA required
 25+ attempted credits = 2.00 GPA required

Graduate students – Students must achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or better.

Quantitative Standard:

Undergraduate students - In addition to achieving the required Grade Point Average (GPA) students must also successfully progress towards completion of the degree in a timely manner. Attempted credits must be no more than the **maximum timeframe allowed or 150% (180 credits)** of the credits needed for the completion of the degree (120 credits). In order to stay within the maximum timeframe allowed, students must earn at least **two-thirds** of their total attempted credits at the point at which they are reviewed.

or

If the above quantitative standard is not met, a student may be eligible to receive financial aid by meeting the following CUNY conditional standards:

Credits earned must be equal to or greater than 75 percent of the credits attempted minus 18. Conditional standard formula: Credits earned $\geq [(.75 \times \text{credits attempted}) - 18]$.

The chart below summarizes the City University of New York quantitative standards:

Title IV Progress Chart:

Cumulative Credits Attempted	12	24	36	48	60	72	84	96	108	120	132	144	156	168	180
Cumulative Credits Earned	8	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72	80	88	96	104	112	120
Cumulative Credits Earned/ Conditional Standard	0	0	9	18	27	36	45	54	63	72	81	90	99	108	117

*At the end of each academic year students will be reviewed to determine their federal financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) eligibility.

Determination of Cumulative Attempted Credits and Cumulative Earned Credits

Withdrawals – Courses that are “dropped” during the “add/drop” period will not be counted as cumulative attempted credits. Withdrawals that are recorded on a student’s permanent record will be included as cumulative attempted credits and will have an adverse effect on a student’s capability to meet the appropriate standard.

Incomplete Grades – Courses with incomplete grades are included as cumulative attempted credits. However, these courses cannot be used as credits accumulated toward the degree because successful completion is the criterion for positive credit accumulation.

Repeated Courses – Successfully completed courses can generally be accepted towards degree requirements once (cumulative earned credits). Repeated courses, regardless of the prior grade, reduce a student’s capacity to meet the required credit accumulation standard.

Readmitted Students - Upon readmission after at least a one-year period of non re-enrollment, the student will receive assistance for the terms in the academic year of readmission and will be evaluated for future eligibility at the end of the spring term against the appropriate standard for the degree program for which the student is enrolled.

If a student is readmitted after less than one year of non-enrollment, the academic record will be evaluated for Satisfactory Academic Progress under these standards as the record stood at the end of the last term of attendance.

Transfer Students – Transfer students shall have their status initialized for the purpose of measuring Satisfactory Academic Progress by using the number of credits determined to be acceptable toward the degree as both the student’s cumulative attempted credits and cumulative earned credits.

Second Degree Students - Students enrolling for a second degree, either baccalaureate, graduate or associate, shall have their status initialized for purposes of Satisfactory Academic Progress measurement by using the number of credits determined to be acceptable toward the degree as both the students’ cumulative attempted credits and cumulative earned credits.

Change of Major - Students who change majors within the same degree or certificate program must complete the degree within the maximum time-frame, unless the institution has allowed for such changes by establishing various time-frames for different programs leading to the degree or by individually re-evaluating the time-frame for these students.

Change of Degree – If a student changes his or her objective and begins pursuing a different degree, the student will be subject to the maximum time frame for the new objective without regard to time spent pursuing the previous degree.

*Only the most recent attempt will be used in the calculation of a student's cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA). While only the most recent attempt is used in the calculation of the cumulative GPA, all previous attempts remain on the academic record and cannot be removed.

Financial Aid Probation

There are two criteria a student must meet in order to achieve Satisfactory Academic Progress; qualitative and quantitative. Failure of either will result in a loss of their federal financial aid eligibility until Satisfactory Academic Progress is regained.

Once federal financial aid eligibility is lost, a student can petition for **federal financial aid reinstatement** by submission of an **appeal**. Students who successfully appeal their loss of aid status will be placed on financial aid probation and will still be eligible to receive financial aid. However, failure to meet federal financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress by the end of that academic year will result in a loss of aid once again.

Students failing to meeting federal financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress, if permitted by the college can continue taking classes towards completion of a degree, but are ineligible to receive **federal financial aid** while doing so.

Student placed on financial aid suspension, but do not wish to appeal are urged to contact the academic advising office. Scheduling an appointment with an advisor to discuss ways to improve your academic performance may prove helpful in regaining financial aid eligibility. We are committed to assisting you in completion of your degree and we hope that you will take advantage of the many academic campus resources available to you.