Summer/Fall 2016 Financial Aid Update

Board of Governor Fee Waiver (BOG) changes

Changes go into effect Fall 2016, students who do not meet the minimum standards, 2.0 cumulative GPA and complete more than 50% of their coursework for two consecutive primary semesters (not including summer), will be ineligible for a BOG Fee Waiver. Consecutive terms are those with no more than one semester break in between.

**If you are registered before grades are posted you *may* still be eligible to receive a BOG fee waiver regardless of your current academic standing. Students’ academic standing is determined by the Admissions and Records Office. If you have any concerns in regards to how your eligibility was determine; please contact Admissions and Records.**

Additional information is available at the link below:

<http://www.icanaffordcollege.com/en-us/financialaidinfo/boardofgovernorsfeewaiver.aspx>

****FINANCIAL AID SCAMS****

There have been reports to the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) that students are being contacted by individuals claiming to be from CSAC and asking for money in order to receive or reserve their Cal Grant award.

**This is a scam. CSAC and FAFSA will never ask for money or credit card information. DO NOT provide any information if contacted. AREA CODE "202" HAS BEEN KNOWN TO BE FRAUD AND SCAM CALLS (e.g. 202-555-5555.)** If you have been a victim or target of this scam, please contact CSAC immediately at 888.224.7268**.** You may need to file a police report with your local police department and notify the California Attorney General's Office at 800-952-5225.

[https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/grants-and-scholarships/how-to-avoid-financial-aid-scams#](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/grants-and-scholarships/how-to-avoid-financial-aid-scams).

FAFSA APPLICATION FOR 2016-2017 now available!

Apply online at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov/) for the Fall 2016/Spring 2017 academic year. If you applied and used estimated income, you should correct your FASFA using the IRS data retrieval tool three to four weeks after you electronically file your 2015 federal tax returns.

**2016-2017 Financial Aid Priority Deadline is June 17, 2016**

If you are maintaining good academic progress, submit all required documents, and completed your financial aid file by June 17, 2016, you will receive priority in determining your award eligibility. If you complete your financial aid file after June 17, 2016, your file will still be reviewed and your award eligibility determined but there is no guaranty that it will be completed before the start of the Fall 2016 semester.

How to Create an FSA ID (Short Video): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lLi0q7hkFns>

FAFSA APPLICATION FOR SPRING 2016/SUMMER 2016

It’s not too late to apply! Go to [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov/) to complete the 2015-2016 FAFSA application. If you filed taxes for 2014, use the IRS data retrieval tool to link your 2014 federal tax returns to your FAFSA. This will speed up processing of your 2015-2016 FAFSA application. The last day to submit the 2015-2016 FAFSA is June 30, 2016.

The deadline to submit a paper BOG Fee Waiver application for the Spring 2016 semester is August 5, 2016. After this date, you will no longer be able to apply for a BOG Fee Waiver for the Fall 2015 or Spring 2016 semesters.

IMPORTANT NEWS AND UPDATES

**Summer financial aid**

* The Reedley Financial Aid Office is open regular hours 8:00 am – 5:00 pm Monday through Friday throughout the Summer.
* If you enroll in summer school, have Pell Grant eligibility remaining, and are maintaining good academic progress after Spring 2016 grading, we will send you an e-mail regarding your eligibility for a Summer Pell.
* For students enrolled Spring 2016, summer financial aid may be on HOLD until Spring grades are reviewed. We estimate Summer 2016 award notices to be available after June 10th.

**New Full-Time Student Success Grant (FTSSG)**

Students who meet the following criteria will be eligible for the new FTSSG award for Fall 2105 and/or Spring 2016.

* Must be enrolled full-time (12 or more units)
* Must have been awarded a Cal Grant B and paid at a full-time status
* Must meet all other Federal/State financial aid requirements

Eligible students will be awarded $300 for each semester of eligibility.

**Financial Aid Appeals**

Following Spring 2016 grades if you are disqualified from receiving financial aid and you have documented circumstances that have affected your ability to be successful in your classes, you may submit a financial aid appeal before July 5, 2016 for summer aid. A Student Educational Plan (SEP) is required in order to submit an appeal. If you do not have an SEP, you will need to meet with an Academic Counselor to have a SEP completed.

Our Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy and our Appeal form can be viewed and printed from our website at [www.reedleycollege.edu/financialaid.](http://www.reedleycollege.edu/financialaid)

FAFSA APPLICATION FOR 2017-2018– AVAILABLE OCTOBER 1, 2016 – IMPORTANT CHANGE

You will be able to file a 2017–18 FAFSA as early as Oct. 1, 2016, rather than beginning on Jan. 1, 2017. The earlier submission date will be a permanent change, enabling you to complete and submit a FAFSA as early as October 1 every year.

Beginning with the 2017–18 FAFSA, you will report income information from an earlier tax year. For example, on the 2017–18 FAFSA, students (and parents, as appropriate) will report their 2015 income information, rather than their 2016 income information.  This is the same income year you used to complete your 2016-2017 FAFSA. Please use the IRS Data Retrieval tool as your 2015 tax return information should be readily available to link to your FAFSA from the IRS.

Many sources of financial aid are first-come, first-served so be sure to mark October 1, 2016 on your calendar!

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/about/announcements/fafsa-changes>

FINANCIAL AID GUIDE

In an effort to better inform students and parents on financial aid rules and regulations, we have compiled and made available on our website a ***Financial Aid Guide***. Students who receive financial aid must meet many requirements to maintain their financial aid eligibility. We encourage all students to read the Guide and use it as a reference when questions arise.

**This page was last updated on March 15, 2016.**