Summer/Fall 2021 Financial Aid Update

FINANCIAL AID AND COVID-19

Due to COVID-19, the Financial Aid Office on campus is closed. We are able to assist you remotely. Students may contact us by phone at (559) 494-3012 or via e-mail at reedley.financialaid@reedleycollege.edu. When contacting us by e-mail, please include your full name and student ID number. Students experiencing difficulty completing the financial aid process can request a phone or ZOOM appointment via e-mail. When requesting an appointment, provide your full name, student ID number, and specific issue/problem so that we may better assist you.

FAFSA APPLICATION FOR 2021-2022

The Financial Aid Office is still accepting applications for financial aid for Fall 2021. The 2021-2022 <u>Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)</u> will require students, and parent, as appropriate, 2019 income information. If you are a tax filer, please use the IRS Data Retrieval tool to link your income data to your FAFSA.

The 2022-2023 FAFSA will open on October 1, 2021. This application is for Fall 2022, Spring 2023, and Summer 2023. Mark your calendars to apply early!

FINANCIAL AID NEWS AND UPDATES

Important Information Regarding Withdrawals

All Classes Dropped

If you withdraw from ALL of your classes before 60% of the semester, you may be expected to repay all or a portion of your financial aid.

Dropping Below 6 Units

If you receive a financial aid check based on 6 or more units and then drop below six units to less than half-time prior to receiving your second check, you will be required to repay all or a major portion of your financial aid. For example, if your original Pell Grant for the semester was \$2000 and you received your first disbursement of \$1000 (50%), you would have to repay a significant amount if you dropped to less than half-time status.

IRS Tax Return Transcripts and IRS Verification of Non-Filing letter

For students and parents who need a copy of the IRS Tax Return Transcript, the easiest way to do this is to establish an account with the IRS and download the required forms. Not all students and parents can create an IRS account. As an alternative, the Financial Aid Office will accept signed, personal copies of the Federal Income Tax Return (1040). Instructions on how to obtain documents from the IRS are <u>available at this link</u>.

The Verification of Non-filing Letter can also be obtained by creating an IRS account.

Summer Financial Aid

- The Reedley Financial Aid Office will continue to provide services remotely for Summer 2021.
- Summer 2021 fee waivers are based off the 2021-2022 FAFSA/CADAA. Always make sure you have completed the next year's financial aid application even if you do not plan to attend during the regular Fall and Spring academic year.

- If you enroll in summer school, have 2020-2021 Pell Grant eligibility remaining, and are maintaining good academic progress after Spring 2021 grading, you will automatically be reviewed for a summer Pell Grant.
- Students who receive a full-time Pell Grant for both the Fall and Spring semester must be enrolled in at least six (6) units for Summer 2021 to use a third semester of Pell Grant eligibility off the prior year's FAFSA. This is called using Pell for a "trailing" summer term.
- Students who are not enrolled at least half-time during Summer, may still be eligible to receive Pell Grant
 funds off the new year's FAFSA. This is called using Pell for a "header" summer term and requires the student
 to be enrolled at least half-time for the following Spring semester.
- For students enrolled Spring 2021, summer financial aid may be on HOLD until Spring grades are reviewed.
 We estimate Summer 2021 award to be finalized after June 11th.

Free College Promise Program - AB19 Grant

The Free College Promise Program will pay for two years of community college for first-time, first-year students if you meet the following criteria listed below. If you feel you are eligible but have not been awarded a waiver or grant to cover your fees, let us know.

- Students must be a first-time, first-year students.
- There are no income limits for this grant.
- Students must be California residents or AB540 eligible as determined by Admissions and Records
- Students must complete a FAFSA or CADAA annually.
- All Enrollment fees, Health fee, and ASB fees will be covered by this grant.
- If you qualify for a <u>California College Promise Grant CCPG</u>, the Free College Promise Program will cover their remaining Health and ASB fees.
- Students must be enrolled in 12 or more units as of the semester census date (approximately 4th week of the semester).
- Students must have attended a California Community College their first year in order to qualify for their second year free.
- Students may receive this grant for a maximum of two academic years.
- Summer enrollment fees may be covered, but students must be enrolled in 12 or more units.
- Students must not be subject to CCPG loss due to unsatisfactory academic progress.

Free College Promise Program Year Two - AB2 Grant

The AB 19 Free College Promise Program will now pay for year two of community college for students who meet the basis criteria of first-time, first-year students with these additional requirements:

- Must have enrolled in a community college their first year.
- Must be enrolled in 12 or more units at census (fourth Monday of the semester)
- Students may only receive this grant for their first and second year of community college for a maximum of two years.
- Summer enrollment is not considered a primary term, but can be paid for if the student enrolls in 12+ units.

Free College Promise Grant - Summer

- Students may also get their enrollment, health, and ASB fees covered during the summer if they enroll fulltime in 12 or more units.
- Just keep in mind that it is challenging to enroll in 12 units during the summer semester because of the compressed schedule and short term of the classes.

Is my Academic Program correct?

One of the requirements to be financial aid eligible is to enroll in an eligible academic program leading to a degree or certificate. Having an incorrect major could limit your financial aid eligibility and deny you access to specific financial aid programs offered at your campus. There are a few academic programs that are not financial aid eligible. For a list of those programs, check out our Financial Aid Guide at www.reedleycollege.edu/financialaid.

Students should verify through Web Advisor that their major is correct. If it is not correct, students should make an appointment to see an Academic Counselor to develop a Student Education Plan (SEP) and correct their major with the Admissions and Records Office.

Financial Aid Appeals

Following Spring 2021 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 2, 2021 for Summer 2021. The deadline to appeal for Fall 2021 is November 5, 2021. 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 <u>Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy</u> and our Appeal form can be viewed and printed from our website at <u>www.reedleycollege.edu/financialaid</u>.

STUDENT LOAN INFORMATION

Student loan fees and interest rates are subject to change every July 1st.

Predicted Interest Rate for Direct Loans (July 1, 2021)

The interest rate for Direct Loans is expected to be 3.67% as of July 1, 2021 for loans disbursed from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Current Origination fee for Direct Loans (effective October 1, 2020)

The origination fee for Direct Loans is 1.057% for loans with first disbursements on or after October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021.

Subsidized Direct Loan Lifetime Eligibility

Congress approved a lifetime limit on receiving Subsidized Direct Loans. This limit applies to first time borrowers only. A first time borrower is defined as a student with a zero (\$0) loan balance as of July 1, 2013.

Student loan borrowers will be limited to 150% of subsidized loan eligibility based on the length of their academic program. For example, a student is enrolled in a 2-year degree program at Reedley College. The student will only have three years of subsidized loan eligibility and after the third year, the student will no longer be eligible for a subsidized loan at our school. Also, if the student has not completed their academic program within that time period, may lose the interest subsidy on all their student loans.

If a student previously borrowed a Subsidized loan from any college and paid his loan balance down to \$0 before July 1, 2013, he would be considered a first time borrower and would be subject to the 150% Subsidized loan limit. For more information on loans, please click here.

CALIFORNIA COLLEGE PROMISE GRANT (CCPG) and ACADEMIC PROGRESS REQUIREMENTS for the CCPG program

California College Promise Grant (CCPG)

The <u>California College Promise Grant</u> is available to students attending a community college who are either California residents or qualify under AB540 rules as determined by the Admissions and Records Office and meet eligibility requirements. Qualified students will have their enrollment fees paid for by the State of California.

Academic Progress Requirements for the CCPG Program

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 CCPG Fee Waiver. Consecutive terms are those with no more than one semester break in between.

If you are registered before grades are posted you <u>may</u> still be eligible to receive a CA College Promise Grant 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 determined, please contact Admissions and Records. Additional information is available at the link below:

https://icanaffordcollege.com/Financial-Aid/California-College-Promise-Grant

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 document was last updated on April 13, 2021