Dear UCSB Students and Families,

Thank you for taking the time to read our Financial Aid Quarterly (FAQ) newsletter. I hope that you find it helpful and refer to it for news and general reminders. As we are all well aware, the news surrounding budget cuts at the federal, state and university levels has not been good in recent months.

In writing this quarterly update I wish I had more upbeat news, but unfortunately cuts to financial aid programs appear to be inevitable. At the federal level we know there will very likely be cuts to many of the federal aid programs, notably the Pell Grant program starting in 2012-2013. Other cuts currently being negotiated by Congress include subsidized student loans for graduate students and the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) for undergraduates.

At the state level, Governor Jerry Brown recently signed Senate Bill 70 (the education trailer bill) into law. Senate Bill 70 achieves reductions in state spending by changing Cal Grant eligibility requirements for both students and institutions. These changes will affect new and renewal Cal Grant recipients beginning with the 2011-2012 academic year. It is expected that nearly 13,000 continuing students will lose their Cal Grant funding state wide. Unfortunately, some UCSB student will be among those students who lose Cal Grant funding for 2011-2012.

With the news of cuts and Governor Brown’s announcement that University of California fees could double if a “cuts only” budget is signed, it is important that we all work together to ensure you as students and parents are fully aware of how your financial aid funding may or may not be impacted. Please pay special attention to emails and announcements from our office and do not delay in responding to requests as we head into the 2011-2012 academic year.

Additionally, I would highly encourage you to plan ahead and save money whenever possible. The best way to save on a college education is to get out in the expected number of quarters. This involves paying special attention to registration times and other vital deadlines. If you have questions regarding processes on campus, please do not hesitate to contact the appropriate campus department, we are all here to ensure your success. Do not overlook the minor details because they could potentially cost you in the long run.

Above all, I would like to emphasize that a University of California education is still one of the best investments a young person can make in his/her lifetime. As a system we find ourselves in very unique times but with some education and attention to detail, I am confident that all of us will navigate the process successfully.

Please drop by our office or call us at (805) 893-2432 should you have any financial aid related questions. On behalf of the entire Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships staff I would like to congratulate our 2011 graduates and wish all of you a successful and safe spring quarter.

Warmest Regards,

Michael M. Miller
Director, Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships
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**Spring 2011**

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**Financial Aid and the 2011 Summer Session**

*By Mischa Lopez*

Are you considering attending the 2011 Summer Session? Or, maybe you have already decided to attend. If so, great! The staff at the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships is here to guide you through the application process and answer any questions or concerns that you may have along the way. In addition to our guidance through the application process, there are also some very important dates that you should be aware of in order to maximize your financial aid eligibility for the 2011 Summer Session.

**How do you apply for summer aid and how does it work?**

In order to apply for summer financial aid, you must have a complete financial aid file at UCSB. This includes the data from the 2010-2011 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Since summer session is the last quarter in the 2010-2011 academic year, we need the 2010-2011 FAFSA on file. If you have not filed this FAFSA and you would like financial aid, please complete the 2010-2011 FAFSA at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) as soon as possible. Your FAFSA must be complete to allow us enough time to process a summer award for you.

The financial aid Summer Session Application will be available on our website on **April 14, 2011**. The **priority filing deadline** for this application is **May 27, 2011**. It is important that you submit your application by this date in order to be considered for Summer University Grant. If you miss this deadline, you may still submit the application until **June 30, 2011**, but your aid will be limited. In order to submit your summer application, you must log into “My Aid Status” [https://www.finaid.ucsb.edu/AidStatus/index.asp](https://www.finaid.ucsb.edu/AidStatus/index.asp) and select the Summer Session Application. We will base your financial aid award on your planned enrollment, so it is critical that you provide accurate summer enrollment information.

**Who is eligible for Summer Financial Aid?**

Financial Aid is available to all continuing and returning degree-seeking UCSB students who are in good academic standing.

This includes all of the following:

- Undergraduate and Graduate Students
- Incoming Freshman and Transfer students
- Graduate students who are enrolled in the Summer Language Program
- Graduate students who are enrolled in the Teacher Education Program

**Unfortunately**, there are some students that are not eligible for summer financial aid.

This includes the following:

- Students who were academically dismissed prior to Spring quarter 2010 are not eligible for summer financial aid.
- Non-UCSB students as determined by the UCSB Office of the Registrar are not eligible for summer financial aid.

**What are the fees for the summer session and what items are included in the cost budget?**

The summer session fees for undergraduate students are $247 per unit (up to 15 units) with a campus based fee of $360. The summer session fees for graduate students are $309 per unit (up to 12 units) with a campus based fee of $151. Your summer budget will include the unit cost, campus based fee and an adjustment for books, supplies and living expenses.

For example, if you are an undergraduate student and plan to take 12 units, the fees will be $3,324. If you are a graduate student and plan to take 12 units, the fees will be $3,859.

If you need more information on the fees, please visit the Summer Session website [http://www.summer.ucsb.edu/](http://www.summer.ucsb.edu/).

**What types of aid are available for summer?**

**Federal Pell Grant** – Pell Grants are available for students attending the 2011 Summer Session. Students who received a Pell Grant during the academic year will qualify for an additional summer Pell Grant award, if they meet the required criteria. Pell Grants are determined based on enrollment, so recipients can maximize their awards by attending full-time (12 units). If you enroll in less than full-time, your Pell Grant will be reduced.

**Summer University Grant** - Available to all eligible undergraduate students who have financial need, apply by the priority deadline of **May 27, 2011** and who are considered an “on time” FAFSA applicant for the 2010-2011 academic year. The maximum UC Grant for summer 2011 is $1,750.

**Federal Direct Loans** and **Federal PLUS Loans** – These loans are available to all undergraduate and graduate students. The amount available for summer is based on your remaining eligibility for the 2010-2011 academic year. For example, if you are an undergraduate student with junior standing and only borrowed $2,000 of your $7,500 loan maximum, then you can receive up to $5,500 for the summer term, depending on the cost budget.

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Can I get financial aid for special programs?

Yes, financial aid is available for the following special programs: The Education Abroad Program (EAP), Freshman Summer Start Program (FSSP), UCSB Washington Program (UCDC), Blue Horizons, Summer Language Institute Program (SLI), Transitions Program, and Summer Travel Study Programs, such as Sydney and Cape Tribulation Australia, Procida Italy, Athens and Paros Greece and Ephesus Turkey.

Also, if you plan on attending another UC during the summer, you will be able to receive the same amount of aid that you would receive if you were attending UCSB; these are known as “Consortium Agreements”. We will have these agreement forms available in our office on April 14, 2011. If you have any questions regarding any of these programs, or one not listed, please feel free to contact our office for more information.

Summer Tutorials!

We are pleased to provide a summer tutorial for all students and/or parents who need assistance with filing their Summer Session Application. This summer session tutorial is a great tool because it navigates through the online application and it also provides important summer session information. This tutorial will be available in mid-May on the home page of the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships website, under Video/Audio Presentations.

We hope you find this information helpful. Please stop by our office or give us a call to inquire about your financial aid options for summer 2011!

Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy

**IMPORTANT POLICY UPDATE**

Beginning July 1, 2011, Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards will change in accordance with Federal Regulations (34 CFR 668.34). All students who have completed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and wish to be considered for University, State and Federal Aid must meet the criteria stated in this policy. Financial aid eligibility is based on satisfactory academic progress standards established by the University, pursuant to federal law, to ensure that all financial aid recipients progress towards degree completion. These new SAP standards will be monitored beginning with the completion of the 2011-2012 academic year.

The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships monitors qualitative and quantitative standards for undergraduate and graduate students after the end of the students' completion of the academic year. Students who do not complete classes enrolled in or fail to achieve the minimum standards for grade point average may lose their eligibility for all types of University, State and Federal aid.

**Undergraduate Students**

**Qualitative Standard:** Undergraduates must maintain a minimum cumulative 2.0 grade point average (GPA). Please note that while passing grades (P) are treated as completed units, they do not count in the GPA calculation.

**Pace (Quantitative) Standard:** Undergraduates must maintain a 100% completion rate of the minimum unit requirement established by the University. Students achieve a 100% completion rate once they have completed the minimum units required during the academic year. Please note the following:

- Courses graded as Incomplete, Failed, Not Passed, or Withdrawn do not count toward completed units.
- In the event a student receives permission to repeat a previously passed course, only the first repeat will apply toward the completed unit count, subsequent repeats will not. This does not apply to courses that are repeatable for credit (i.e. independent study courses).
- Transfer units will be counted in the completion rate provided they have been accepted by the University for degree credit.

**Maximum Time Frame of Eligibility for Financial Aid:** The federally regulated financial aid requirement specifies that students are eligible to receive aid for 150% of the time normally required to complete an academic program. Undergraduate degree programs are designed to be completed in four years. For example, an undergraduate student admitted to UCSB as a freshman loses all undergraduate financial aid eligibility after 18 quarters of attendance (150% of 12 quarters) including quarters in which the student withdraws. Additionally, all periods of attendance count toward the duration of eligibility whether aid is received or not.

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Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy continued from previous page

Graduate Students

Qualitative Standard: Graduate students must maintain a minimum cumulative 3.0 grade point average (GPA). Please note that while passing grades (S) are treated as completed units, they do not count in the GPA calculation.

Pace (Quantitative) Standard: Graduate students must maintain a 100% completion rate of the minimum unit requirement established by the University. Students achieve a 100% completion rate once they have completed the minimum units required during the academic year. Please note the following:

- Courses graded as Incomplete, Failed, Unsatisfactory, or Withdrawn do not count toward completed units.
- In the event a student receives permission to repeat a previously passed course, only the first repeat will apply toward the completed unit count, subsequent repeats will not. This does not apply to courses that are repeatable for credit (i.e. independent study courses).

Maximum Time Frame of Eligibility for Financial Aid: The federally regulated financial aid requirement specifies that students are eligible to receive aid for 150% of the time normally required to complete an academic program. Graduate students are required to meet the University approved time-to-degree standards for their program of study. Therefore, graduate students may not be eligible to receive financial aid once they exceed 150% of their program’s time-to-degree standard (i.e. 9 years for a program with a 6 year time-to-degree standard).

Reinstatement of Aid after Financial Aid is denied

Students who are declared ineligible to receive aid (placed on financial aid suspension) for not maintaining satisfactory academic progress will not receive any financial aid in subsequent quarters and will be notified promptly, via email, at the end of the academic year. If special circumstances exist which caused a student to fail to meet one of the above standards, a written appeal may be submitted. Specific instructions for submitting an appeal will be included in the email notification. Examples of special circumstances include, but are not limited to: death of an immediate family member, injury or medical condition of the student, or other special circumstances. The appeal should address and document these special circumstances AND describe how circumstances have changed in the student’s situation that will allow the student to demonstrate SAP progress at the next evaluation. The student will be notified via email of the decision to approve or deny financial aid eligibility. Appeals must be submitted to The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships and must include supporting documentation. Incomplete appeals or those missing adequate documentation will be denied.

Students who are not meeting satisfactory academic progress standards but have successfully appealed will be placed on Financial Aid Probation and have their eligibility reinstated, subject to availability of funds. This type of probation is for financial aid purposes only and is separate from academic probation policies for academic standing with the University. The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships will evaluate the student’s academic progress at the end of each subsequent quarter, when applicable, as determined in the approved appeal. Students who are on Financial Aid Probation may experience delays in receiving funds the following quarter due to the need to confirm previous quarter’s grades before releasing further financial aid.

Students may also gain future financial aid eligibility, subject to availability of funds, if they enroll in school at their own expense, without the help of student financial aid, and do well enough in the coursework to satisfy both the qualitative and/or quantitative standards. Please note that this will only make students eligible for future aid once reinstated. It is not retroactive.
The way in which the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships collects and verifies income information for families seeking financial aid is changing. Every year in late spring the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships sends notice to students and parents to submit tax documents and this year is no exception. However, the antiquated process of submitting paper tax returns is getting a facelift this application season for UCSB students, translating into earlier award notices and faster office response times to your inquiries. It’s a win-win situation.

The effort to align electronic-data exchanges between federal agencies, the Department of Education launched the IRS Data Retrieval tool, with the intention of helping families easily provided pre-verified income information on the FAFSA.

For this setup, the IRS and the Central Processing System (aka the FAFSA processor) will securely exchange income data, per an applicant’s authorization of course, resulting in pre-verified income information on the FAFSA before it is sent to UCSB. Because the income information is verified by the IRS, this results in speedier processing times as the data is accurately and instantaneously relayed between UCSB and the FAFSA processor. Students and parents that take advantage of this tool and successfully retrieve their tax information on the FAFSA will have the federal tax document requirement waived by the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships. The process is easy...

First, you must have the following things in place in order to use the IRS Data Retrieval tool when logged into the FAFSA website (www.fafsa.gov):

A parent or student must:

- Have a Federal Aid Personal Identification Number (PIN)
  - Please wait two weeks before attempting to use the tool if you filed electronically, as it takes this long before the IRS can make your tax information available for transfer to the FAFSA application.
  - If you filed a paper tax return, then please wait a minimum of 6 weeks before attempting to use the IRS Data Retrieval tool on the FAFSA, as it takes the IRS this long to make the information available for transfer. You can always submit a FAFSA with the intention of returning to it later to make changes or to use the IRS Data Retrieval tool.
- Have a valid Social Security number (SSN)
  - Anything other than a SSN used to file an IRS tax return means you can not use the IRS Data Retrieval tool on the FASFA. You may be asked to submit paper-tax returns to the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships.
- Have a Federal Aid Personal Identification Number (PIN)
  - All persons who filed a FAFSA and signed the document electronically already have a PIN. New FAFSA filers will be able to establish a PIN at www.pin.ed.gov.
- Have an unchanged marital status since December 31, 2010
  - If you divorced or married in 2011, then the IRS Data Retrieval tool is not available. A parent’s change in marital status does not prevent a dependent student from using the IRS Data Retrieval tool to pre-verify their own income information on the same FAFSA.
- Persons that are "Married filing separately" for tax purposes can not use the IRS Data Retrieval option. You may be asked to submit paper-tax returns to the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships.

Because many persons will not have filed their federal tax returns with the IRS at the time the FAFSA was submitted, you’re are strongly encouraged to re-enter the FAFSA.gov website to correct your application and initiate the IRS Data Retrieval process if your federal tax returns have now been processed by the IRS. Persons that have not filed a FAFSA as of yet are eligible to use the IRS Data Retrieval tool as long as you meet the preceding criteria.

Persons that have already filed a FAFSA, but later want to use the IRS Data Retrieval tool, will change their tax filings status on the FAFSA from "will file" to "already filed," whereby the FAFSA processor will ask the applicant to use the IRS Data Retrieval tool. This screen will prompt either the parent or student to provide authenticating information before initiating an exchange of information. Once successful, the IRS will transmit income data to the FAFSA and flag the income fields on your FAFSA with "Transferred from the IRS." It is important that this verified information not be altered by either a parent or student as this will invalidate the process altogether at the time it is sent to UCSB. Please visit our IRS Data Retrieval tutorial found on our website www.finaid.ucsb.edu. The tutorial will provide you with additional instruction for how to use the data transfer.

Remember that the final step in this process is to click the “Transfer Now” button once it’s made available on the screen. Alterations to these fields after transfer will cause processing delays to your financial aid award letter.

Unfortunately, the IRS Data Retrieval process is not open to everyone. Tax filers that are not able to use the tool include:

- Persons with amended federal tax returns
- Persons with foreign tax returns (i.e. Puerto Rican tax returns)
- Persons with all zeroes for a SSN
- Students using an 888 identified in place of a SSN (i.e. students from the Pacific Islands)

We hope that you and your parents will choose to have your income information pre-verified on the FAFSA by using the IRS Data Retrieval tool. This streamlining process will save you and your family time and will allow the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships to improve its overall services to our community at large.
YOU’VE BEEN SELECTED! By Nathan Cook

It's spring! ...and for the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, that means it's Verification season.

Each year, the FAFSA processor selects a number of Financial Aid applications to be verified. It is then the duty of our office to collect information from students and confirm that the information provided on the FAFSA is true and correct. This process helps to ensure that the limited Financial Aid dollars available are directed to the neediest students.

The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships begins sending out requests for documents in early April. These requests are sent to a student’s university email (umail) account, so students should check their email regularly. We also recommend checking your spam filters, as some email forwarding services will erroneously categorize our document requests as spam.

Requests for documents can be viewed on Tab 3 of My Aid Status when a student logs in to our website at www.finaid.ucsb.edu. You’ll notice that there is a due date associated with our request for documents. Submissions received after the stated due date may receive reduced UC Grant assistance, so it's important to be on-time.

To expedite the processing of your Financial Aid verification documents, we recommend the following:

- **Use the IRS Data Retrieval tool on the FAFSA!** As discussed earlier in this newsletter. We will waive the requirement for Federal Tax Returns for parents/students that use this tool (other forms will still be required).
- Correct your FAFSA after you have filed your 2010 Federal Tax return.
- Print all worksheets listed on Tab 3 of My Aid Status (including parent and student tax return worksheets).
- Fill out all fields on the Dependent Verification Worksheet. Enter zeroes where necessary.
- Include all forms and schedules filed with your Federal Tax Return.
- All requested tax returns must be signed. Form 1040EZ should be signed at the Sign Here line at the bottom of the page. Form 1040A or 1040 should be signed at the Sign Here line at the bottom of the page. A signature on IRS Form 8453 cannot be accepted for financial aid purposes.
- Don't include copies of your state tax returns.
- Securely attach your documents together. Print the student’s perm number on the top of each page, in case the documents become separated.
- Report assets accurately on the FAFSA. Tax returns offer many clues to a parent’s assets. Supplemental requests for clarification lead to significant delays.

Reese's Pieces

Q&A with our Senior Financial Aid Advisor, Paula Reese

Q: I heard there are some new rules for Summer Pell Grant. What’s the deal with “acceleration”?

A: **Accelerate: To make something happen at a faster rate.**

The Department of Education has changed regulations to allow a student to receive a 4th term (summer) of Pell Grant funding or 2nd year pell, if they are a full time student and are attempting to “accelerate” the completion of their degree.

In order to receive a 4th term of Pell Grant a student must meet the following new **Acceleration** requirements:

- Have received 100% of their 1st full time Pell scheduled award
- Have Completed 36 units during 2010-2011
- Be enrolled at least ½ time (6-8 units)

If a student does not complete 36 credits with passing grades, they must enroll in enough units during their 4th term (summer) to give them 36 plus at least one unit (37) towards their 2nd year of Pell Grant eligibility.