



April 2012

Dear Student:

Beginning July 1, 2012, there will be many changes to financial aid programs that may affect you due to updates in Federal and State regulations. Below you will find a summary of the changes for the 2012-2013 school year. These new requirements apply to all students unless otherwise indicated.

You should review these changes carefully and plan ahead for your educational future. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Grossmont College Financial Aid Office at (619) 644-7129.

1. **Enrollment Fee Increase**

Beginning with the Summer 2012 semester, the enrollment fee will increase to \$46 per unit.

2. **6-year Federal Pell Grant Limit**

Effective July 1, 2012, the maximum lifetime eligibility to receive a Pell Grant is twelve full-time equivalent semesters (approximately 6 years). **The limit includes all prior semesters of Pell Grant aid received at all prior schools.** After receiving twelve full-time equivalent semesters of Pell grant, eligibility for Pell grant ends. Some students may have exceeded the twelve full-time equivalent semesters (6 year limit) and will no longer be eligible for a Pell Grant after July 1, 2012.

Beginning in mid-April, the Department of Education will send e-mail messages to all 2012-2013 FAFSA applicants who appear to have received four and half (4½) years or more of Pell grant eligibility.

3. **BOG Fee Waiver**

BOG B: Beginning Fall 2012, health fees are no longer waived for BOG B recipients.

BOG C: The minimum amount of "financial need" to receive a BOG C Fee Waiver will change from \$1 to \$1,104. Need is determined by subtracting the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) from the full year Cost of Attendance (COA) or Student Budget. The formula is $COA - EFC = \text{Need}$, which must be \$1,104 or greater.

Example #1 \$17,336 COA
 - 16,000 EFC
 \$1,336 (student is eligible for BOG C)

Example #2 \$10,536 COA
 - 10,400 EFC
 \$136 (student is NOT eligible for BOG C)



4. **IRS Tax Transcript Required**

We will request students to submit an IRS Tax Transcript instead of a copy of the federal income tax return (1040EZ, 1040A, 1040) to verify taxable income for students or parents, if required. **Copies of federal tax returns are NO LONGER ACCEPTED.** To request an IRS Tax Transcript, the tax payer can call 1-800-908-9946 or order it online at <http://www.irs.gov/> and under the "Tools" section select "Order a Return or Account Transcript". There is no limit as to how many times you can request an IRS Tax Transcript.

Students and Parents are encouraged to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool when completing their FAFSA online. Students and Parents can use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool, if the data is not changed, to verify their income tax information even if a FAFSA has already been filed for 2012-2013.

Students and Parents who do not use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool and who are required to verify their income tax information must provide an IRS Tax Transcript to the Financial Aid Office.

Students who apply for a BOG Fee Waiver and are required to verify their income tax information must also provide the IRS Tax Transcript as described above. Copies of a filed 1040EZ, 1040A or 1040 are NO LONGER ACCEPTED.

5. **H.S. Diploma/GED required for New Students**

Students enrolling for the first time after July 1, 2012 must have a High School Diploma, GED or state equivalent to be eligible for any federal financial aid. **Students will no longer have the option to pass an Ability to Benefit (ATB) test or to successfully complete 6 degree applicable units to gain eligibility for federal financial aid.**

A student who does not possess a high school diploma, or a recognized equivalent, but who was enrolled in an eligible program any time prior to July 1, 2012, may be eligible to receive Title IV student assistance under the ATB alternatives. Please contact the Financial Aid Office if you think you were enrolled in an approved post-secondary program prior to July 1, 2012. However, please be advised that Grossmont and Cuyamaca Colleges WILL NOT accept ATB examination scores from other colleges.

Information on obtaining a GED can be found at the Grossmont Adult School website <http://adultschool.guhsd.net/index.php/course-offerings/high-school-diploma-ged>.

6. **Loan Interest Changes**

The interest rates for Direct Loans will increase from 3.4% to 6.8% for loans disbursed on or after July 1, 2012.

The interest subsidy for Direct Loans during the Grace Period is eliminated. For



Financial Aid Office

new loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2014, the federal government will no longer subsidize (pay) the student loan interest during the six month grace period. The grace period is the six-month period after you drop below half-time enrollment status (below six units), leave school or graduate. The repayment period begins after the grace period. Students are encouraged to check with their Loan Servicer for any available options to assist with their loan repayment.

7. **Consortium Agreements**

Students are allowed to submit only **ONE** consortium agreement per semester. Units taken concurrently at Grossmont College and Cuyamaca College may be accepted for financial aid purposes if a student has filed a consortium agreement at the Financial Aid Office. **Please make sure your information on the agreement is correct as changes in major or degree objective for the same term will not be accepted.** For more details about the consortium agreement, please refer to the Student Guide to Financial Aid or contact the Financial Aid Office.

8. **Students Enrolled in Distance Education (On-line) Courses**

Students who are only enrolled in distance education (on-line) courses **must reside in California** during that semester to be eligible for financial aid. Students must verify their place of residence with the Financial Aid Office. If you are enrolled in on-line courses only and live outside of California, you are not eligible for federal financial aid. For more details, please contact the Financial Aid Office.

9. **Course Repetition and Receiving Federal Aid**

Students can only receive financial aid for up to one (1) repeat of any course with a passing grade (A,B,C, D and P grades are considered passing for financial aid purposes).