

Good Morning!

In our previous presentations to counselors Karen and I have talked about the dramatic changes to financial aid. I thought I would reiterate some of the important points because I think there may be a misunderstanding. We are currently seeing too many students in more units than they can finish and ED PLANS that show 14, 16 and 18 units. We even had one the other day that showed 4 classes for summer and he has a 1.0 GPA! I thought that was a lot until I ran a report last night that showed we have 20 students enrolled in 12 or more units for summer and 3 of them are on probation.

We have a large percentage of students receiving financial aid. I need you to help me focus these students on enrolling in what they can complete.

Here's the scoop:

18 Full-Time Equivalent semesters of Pell:

Students who received aid for the first time in 08-09 are on an 18 FTE Pell clock. It is based on what we pay them (1/2, ¾, FT, etc). That is 9 years of Pell aid, which should be enough to get a BA, at which point the Pell stops anyway. The best way to help a student use their 18 FTE semesters effectively is to have them pay attention to this chart

12 units or more equals FT (so they don't get more for 18 units and a poor completion rate will cost them aid later)

9.0-11.5 is ¾ time

6.0-8.5 is ½ time

Less than 6 is less than half time

So if a student is in 11.5 (or 8.5) units they are half a unit away from being paid several hundred dollars a year more.

Year-Round Pell:

Students completion rate is more important than ever. Students who attended in the Fall and the Spring and get to their 25th unit of enrollment in summer will get additional Pell dollars, but PLEASE do not advise them to enroll in more summer units to get the second Pell. They should enroll in what they think they can successfully complete. If they enroll in 14 units and complete 5, they can put their following Spring payment in jeopardy.

They must complete 67% of their coursework to stay off probation. They must complete enough units to get to the 25th unit in their 3rd semester—no matter which semester that is. The lines are blurred now. The Department of Education is focusing on completion rates more than ever. Loading up on units to get paid more money is a bad thing unless they complete ALL the units with a C or better. W grades won't hurt their GPA, but it could cost them their FA.

What will they get paid for summer??

We are required by law to evaluate very FA student who enrolls for summer (we are at 333 FA students now-almost double last year) three different ways and we are working in two years for most students. We are required to pay them in the way that gets them the most money. We cannot complete the calculations until Spring grades are in, so **students need to plan to buy their books and then get paid**. The first disbursement is June 24th. We will be able to pay students who have returned their documents for 10-11 and aren't on probation. Students enrolled in 12 or more units may not be paid until census, so we do not cause them to lose their FA for Spring.

I know financial aid is very complicated, just like trying to counsel a student who doesn't know what he/she wants to do. I hope this email clarifies a little bit and doesn't muddy the water further. The rules are changing drastically in FA. Students need to do the process early and complete the classes they are paid to take or they won't get paid.

Here's hoping we all survive the summer! I will be happy to answer questions for you on specific students so we can help them be more successful.

Jacque

ps. Just one more thing. We are changing to Formula 1, which means FT is 12 units in summer. BUT under this new calculation, many if not most of the students will get MORE money if enrolled in 6 units than they would have for 6 units prior to 10-11.