March 2010

Did you Know?

- For the summer 2010 term that 6 hours is considered Full Time for an undergraduate student and 5 hours for a graduate student and 3 hours is Half Time.
- Verification is a process that ensures that the information you reported on your FAFSA is accurate. Approximately 1 in 3 applicants are randomly selected by the federal government for the verification process.

Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer 2010 Aid Application becomes Available</td>
<td>Mar 29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer 2010 Enrollment Begins</td>
<td>Apr 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Aid Application Priority Date</td>
<td>Apr 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electronic Refunds for excess summer aid first become available</td>
<td>Jun 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper checks for excess summer aid to be mailed</td>
<td>Jun 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Census Date for Summer/Payment Due</td>
<td>Jun 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline for Summer Aid Application</td>
<td>Jun 11</td>
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Dollar$ and Cent$

From the Director

As with many things in life, change is constant. This is also true in the world of financial aid. One of the changes that came with the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) that was finalized in October 2009 is the implementation of “year-round Pell grants”. This new regulation allows eligible students to receive up to two Pell grants within one academic year.

What this means for our students at WSU is that, if eligible, a student could receive a portion of a second Pell grant award within the 2009-10 academic year, beginning with this Summer 2010 session. Under the old regulations, a Pell Grant recipient who had enrolled full-time for both the fall and spring semesters would not have had any Pell grant eligibility left for the summer term as they were only allowed one full Pell grant award per academic year. As a result of this new regulation, that same student may have additional Pell grant eligibility for the summer under a “second” scheduled award – using the same Expected Family Contribution (EFC) that they had during the fall and spring semesters.

With the start of the 2010 – 2011 academic year, there will be some additional criteria that we have to monitor in order for a student to receive a second scheduled Pell award. These criteria include a “cross-over” payment period, where the school must pay the Pell Grant from the award year with the highest dollar amount. Therefore beginning next summer (2011), WSU will need to compare the current year’s (2010-11) EFC with the EFC for the upcoming (2011-2012) academic year and pay the summer Pell grant that generates the higher dollar amount to the student. Another provision we will have to monitor beginning with the 2010-2011 year is whether the student has “accelerated” in their academic year progression. This means that a full-time student, who has used up their first scheduled Pell award, will only be eligible for a second Pell award in the summer ’11 term if they have completed at least 24 semester hours during the time they received their first Pell grant award.

In closing, I want to introduce two new staff members that joined our team in January. They are Kandace Mars, Program Specialist and Julie Love, Administrative Specialist. Kandace had previously been a student employee in our office before graduating last May and then working as a Financial Aid Counselor at Wichita Area Technical College, and Julie comes to us from Kansas Newman University where she was a Financial Aid Counselor. We are very fortunate to have both of these individuals on our staff!

Deb Byers
Financial Aid Awareness Week


Thanks to all, for making the week so successful. FAFSA applications for the upcoming 2010-2011 academic year are up 18% compared to the previous academic year’s priority FAFSA date.

Congratulations to our Financial Aid Awareness Week $1000 Grand Prize Scholarship Winner Quyen Phan for completing the 2010-2011 FAFSA prior to March 1st.

If you have any thoughts or suggestions for next year’s Financial Aid Awareness Week contact April Keim, Assistant Director at 316-978-5027.

Summer 2010 Aid Applications

Summer Financial Aid applications will be available Monday, March 29th. All students seeking summer financial aid must complete the WSU Summer Aid Application. If you are planning on attending classes during the 2010 summer semester and did not complete the 2009-2010 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), you should do so immediately. Students can access the summer aid application on-line at www.wichita.edu/finaidforms or by stopping by the Office of Financial Aid.

Students must be enrolled in summer courses before the summer application will be processed. Summer enrollment begins April 5th. For the summer term six credit hours for undergraduates/ 5 credit hours for graduates is considered full time; and half time status is three hours for both undergraduates and graduate students.

The priority date for Summer 2010 Aid applications is April 23, 2010. Apply early to receive consideration for aid programs with limited funding and to prevent delays in receiving summer financial aid!

If you were a Federal Pell grant recipient during the 2009-2010 academic year, you may also have additional Federal Pell grant eligibility for the summer term. New federal regulations now allow for year-round Pell grant opportunities. Summer 2010 Pell grants range from $135-$1189 depending on your eligibility and enrollment status.

Drop Policy Change

In an effort to improve the registration experience for WSU students, WSU no longer cancels student registrations for non-payment as of the Spring 2010 term.

However, if you enroll in a course and do not drop that course you are financially obligated to pay for that course. Enrolling in courses represents a financial commitment. Students must pay for their tuition bill in full, or enroll in the university’s installment plan by the due date. Payment for the summer session is due June 9th. Failure to complete the payment process may result in late charges.

For more information on the new policy please visit http://wichita.edu/droppolicy
Our office has been busy over the past several months finalizing awards for incoming freshman and transfer students. Nearly 1200 new students have been offered scholarships ranging from $1,000 - $48,000 to attend WSU!

It is not too late to submit a general scholarship application! Although we encourage students to apply early, new freshman, transfer students, and returning adults will continue to be awarded until funding is exhausted.

Current/continuing students are advised to submit an application with their academic college. Deadlines for current students vary by college, but are typically in early spring. Award notifications to continuing students will be sent April through May.

One of the most frequent questions we get asked at this time of year is whether scholarships are taxable. Our friends at FastWeb provided some detailed information regarding this very issue. Typically, a scholarship is tax-free if you are a full-time or part-time student at a primary, secondary or accredited post-secondary institution. To be tax-free the scholarship must cover direct costs such as tuition and fees but can also cover books and supplies. It does not cover room and board, transportation or miscellaneous expenses. Scholarships are taxable if they exceed your direct costs.

If you are not sure whether the scholarship is taxable or have any questions related to adjustments on your tax return, contact the IRS at 1 (800) 829-1040. Additional information on scholarships and taxes can also be found in IRS Publication 520 at www.irs.gov.

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