Financial Aid Facts

January 2013
Volume 2, Issue 2

A previous issue of Financial Aid Facts (Volume 1, Issue 2 – available on the Financial Aid section of the College website) explained the process of verification, which is a review process that the Office of Financial Aid must perform before it can credit a student account with aid. Now there are significant changes to the verification process for 2013-2014 as outlined below.

It will be especially important for students and parents to use the IRS data retrieval tool when filing a FAFSA for 2013-2014. This will reduce errors and hence the probability of being selected for verification.

For 2013-2014, there will be five verification groups, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verification Tracking Flag</th>
<th>Verification Tracking Group</th>
<th>Verification Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>V1</td>
<td>Standard Verification</td>
<td>Record selected because conditions based on statistical analysis error-prone risk model were met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V2</td>
<td>SNAP Verification</td>
<td>Record selected for receipt of SNAP criteria only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V3</td>
<td>Child Support Paid Verification</td>
<td>Record selected for Child Support Paid criteria only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V4</td>
<td>Custom Verification Group</td>
<td>Record selected for Identity criteria only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5</td>
<td>Aggregate Verification Group</td>
<td>Record selected for Identity criteria and Standard Verification criteria</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The process for each of the first three groups (V1 through V3) is similar to current standard practice.

V4 and V5 students, however, are now required to provide the following documentation in person to the Office of Financial Aid:

- Government-issued photo identification, such as a driver’s license, passport or military ID; and
- Signed Statement of Educational Purpose for the 2013-2014 award year.

A V4 or V5 student who is unable to provide this information in person and chooses to use the drop box, interoffice mail or a courier service to deliver documents, must provide to the College:

- Notarized copy of a government-issued photo identification, such as a driver’s license, passport or military ID; and
- Original notarized Statement of Educational Purpose signed by the applicant for the 2013-2014 award year.

Additionally, V4 and V5 students must provide either:

- A copy of the high school diploma or final high school transcript that shows the date they completed secondary school, or alternative documentation if neither of these is available (e.g., GED, a certificate recognized by the state as equivalent to a diploma, an academic transcript showing successful completion of at least a two-year program fully acceptable toward a bachelor’s degree); or
- A copy of home-school documentation (e.g., a home-school certificate issued by a Pennsylvania Department of Education-approved home-school organization).

Students selected for verification will be notified which group they fall into on their Student Aid Report. The Office of Financial Aid will then follow up to assist them in completing the process.

For more information, go to the Financial Aid section of the College website.