



## FINANCIAL AID VERIFICATION PROCEDURES 2009-2010

### What is verification?

Verification is the process used to check the accuracy of the information that a student gives when applying for financial aid.

Verification procedures are governed by the Higher Education act of 1965, as amended and Subpart E of 34CFR Part 608. "Verification of Student Aid Application Information" regulations are published in the Federal Register dated on March 14, 1986, and August 15, 1986.

The selection of an application for verification does not mean that we believe your information is incorrect. Some applications are selected for review on a random basis. Some applications are selected upon a set of common edits that check data for consistency and logic. In some cases, data is checked against the Social Security Administration and the Veterans Administration to ensure that these benefits are being reported correctly. Finally, data is submitted to the U.S. Department of Education. **Until the verification process is complete, no Federal Funds may be disbursed.** If the student is seeking a Federal Subsidized Stafford Loan, Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, or a Federal Direct PLUS Loan and is selected for verification, the application cannot be processed until verification is completed.

### What information will the family need to provide?

The family will have to provide documents or related material requested by the Financial Aid Office within 10 days of request or by the deadline date, whichever date is earlier.

### Completion of Verification

When the verification review is completed you may receive one of more of the following:

- An award email confirming your financial aid awards,
- A letter or email indicating the you are not eligible for financial aid
- A letter or email that list any other applicable information, or
- A new Student Aid Report reflecting changes that we have made to your application electronically as a result of verification. Once you have received the SAR, please review it for accuracy.

### Consequences

Your failure to provide the required documentation within the specified time period could result in:

- Loss of financial aid for the semester or academic year,
- Future applications for financial aid may not be processed, or
- Your financial aid application material may not be forwarded to the U.S. Department of Education for review.

### VERIFICATION PROCESSING AND INSTITUTIONAL DEADLINE DATES

#### Federal Pell Grant

In order to be considered for the Federal Pell Grant, GCSU must have a valid Student Aid Report (SAR) on file while the student is enrolled or eligible, and meets all other program eligibility criteria, whether selected for verification or not. If a Federal Pell Grant applicant is selected to have information on his or her application verified, he or she must have on file, in addition to the SAR, the requested documents. In the case of an applicant who leaves schools because of graduation, completion of an academic term, or withdrawal, information must be submitted so the verification process is completed by August 1, 2010; or 60 days from the applicant's last day of enrollment, whichever date is earlier. The process is completed when the applicant has:

1. submitted all requested documents to GCSU Financial Aid Office , and
2. all necessary corrections are on file with the Central Processor.

GCSU Financial Aid Office must receive eligible ISIR (electronic SAR) by the last day the student is enrolled for the period August 17, 2009 through May 7, 2010/ If the SAR reflects information that is inaccurate, the information must be corrected within the 60 days time limit or in time for the Pell Grant Processor to receive the SAR by June 30, 2010, whichever is earlier.

**NOTE:** A student may increase his or her eligibility for the Pell Grant during the 60 days extension period on correct data.

If the results of verification determine that a student was not eligible for the funds received, these funds must be repaid. If repayment is not made, the overpayment will be referred to the U.S. Department of Education.

Student Aid Report corrections must be submitted to the processor by August 1, 2010. If you need corrections made and would like GCSU Financial Aid Office to submit these electronically, we must receive corrections by July 15, 2010.

**The verification process is required by federal regulations; therefore we are required to adhere to these procedures.**