



FINANCIAL AID VERIFICATION PROCEDURES 2025-2026

What is verification?

The GCSU Financial Aid Office is required to verify information and make corrections when necessary. If your FAFSA is selected for verification, it does not mean that the U.S. Department of Education believes something is incorrect. Some applications are selected on a random basis. Some are selected by the GCSU Financial Aid Office due to conflicting information on the application that must be corrected. However, for all applicants, federal aid may not be disbursed until the verification process is complete.

The GC Financial Aid Office verifies information reported on the FAFSA against documents that are requested of the student and/or parent. Should any corrections be required, the GC Financial Aid Office will submit those corrections to the Central Processing System so that the FAFSA can be updated with accurate information.

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.

What information will the family need to provide and when?

Documents requested can vary, however, typically some tax information and household information is required.

Documents are requested to be uploaded as soon as possible, as federal aid eligibility cannot be determined until the verification process is complete. Regulations do allow documents or related material requested by the Financial Aid Office to be submitted within 120 days of the student's last date of enrollment or by September 1, 2025, whichever is earlier.

Completion of Verification

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

- An award email confirming your financial aid awards, Estimated Family Contribution, and any changes to previous awards based on corrections made in verification
- A letter or email indicating the reason you are not eligible for financial aid
- A letter or email that list any other applicable information
- 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
- Your financial aid application material may not be forwarded to the U.S. Department of Education for review

Tax Filer Extension

If a student or parent filed a tax extension for the year on the FAFSA, and did not adhere to the October IRS filing deadline, consideration for Federal Aid cannot be made. Please contact our office for more details.

VERIFICATION PROCESSING AND INSTITUTIONAL DEADLINE DATES

Federal Pell Grant

In order to be considered for the Federal Pell Grant, GC 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 that an applicant leaves school because of graduation, completion of an academic term, or withdrawal, information must be submitted so the verification process is completed by September 1, 2026, or 120 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 GC Financial Aid Office, and
2. all necessary corrections are on file with the Central Processor.

GC Financial Aid Office must receive a student's eligible ISIR (electronic SAR) by the last day the student is enrolled for the period **August 18, 2025, through May 15, 2026 (through August 1, 2026, if enrolled in Summer courses)**. If the SAR reflects information that is inaccurate, the information must be corrected within the 120 days time limit or in time for the Federal Processor to receive the SAR by September 1, 2026, whichever is earlier.

NOTE: A student may increase his or her eligibility for the Pell Grant during the 120 days extension period on correct data.

Student Aid Report corrections must be submitted to the processor by Mid-September 2026. If you need corrections made and would like GC Financial Aid Office to submit these electronically, we must receive documents by **September 1, 2026**.

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

**If you believe that incorrect information has been reported or documentation altered to obtain federal funds fraudulently, you should contact the Office of Inspector General to report your claims. Contact our office for referral information.*