FINANCIAL AID VERIFICATION PROCEDURES 2019-2020

What is verification?
Verification is a federally mandated 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 by the U.S. Department of Education does not mean that they believe your information is incorrect. Some applications are selected for review on a random basis. Applications are also 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.**

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 120 days of the student's last date of enrollment or by September 21, 2020, whichever is earlier. Additional tax documents may be requested to complete your verification.

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
- 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 2017, and did not adhere to the October 15, 2018 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 21, 2020, 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 20, 2019 through May 10, 2020 (through August 1, 2020 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 21, 2020, 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 September 21, 2020. If you need corrections made and would like GC Financial Aid Office to submit these electronically, we must receive documents by **September 1, 2020.**

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