

## **What Has Changed To Pell Awarding????**

Hello Students,

### ***What is changing?***

Beginning with the Fall 2018 term, the Pell Grant and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) will now pay on “attending hours”. This means these awards will pay a pro-rated amount at different points during the term based on when each class begins.

For example; a student is enrolled in 6 credits during the Fall term. 3 credits begin on August 20<sup>th</sup> and 3 credits begin on September 24<sup>th</sup>. This student has a “0” EFC so is entitled to a Pell Grant award of \$1480 based on the 6 enrolled credits. The initial payment of \$740 would be authorized on 8/24 and would be paid during the normal disbursement time frame. However, the second payment of \$740 would not be paid until the September 24<sup>th</sup> class begins and the add/drop period for that class has ended.

### ***Why is this changing?***

Under our prior policy, the student would have been “pre-paid” that second payment of \$740 during the normal disbursement period however, if in this scenario the September 24<sup>th</sup> class was dropped or cancelled prior to it beginning that \$740 would have to be returned, even if the student was not at fault in any way. Under this new policy, that second payment of \$740 will be deferred until it is actually earned thereby mitigating student repayments and reducing the associated financial hardships caused by such action. Additionally, this is not new. Loans at SCF have been paid out in a similar way for years – we are now simply paying the other federal financial aid using the same methodology.

### ***Does this mean I will receive less funding?***

Not at all. This in no way reduces the amount of funding for these programs a student is entitled to receive. The only change is when the amounts are authorized and paid out. Rather than “pre-paying” the amounts as we have in the past, we will now pay these funds based on when the classes begin and thus when these amounts are earned.

### ***Does this affect any of my other aid?***

No. This ONLY affects the way Pell and SEOG is paid. Loans are already paid under a similar rule and have been for some years now. Scholarship and 3<sup>rd</sup> party contracts (employer reimbursements, etc.,) have their own payment rules and will continue to pay out the same way they have in the past per those vendor’s rules.

### ***What if I need all my funding at once?***

Since these awards are authorized once the classes have begun and the associated add/drop periods have ended, if you desire to have all funding paid out during the regular disbursement cycle, then you will want to schedule all of your classes to begin during the regular enrollment period.

For example; a student is enrolled in 12 credits for the Fall term. All 12 credits begin on 8/20. The student has a “0” EFC and is entitled to receive \$2960 based on 12 credits of enrollment. In this case, since all classes begin on the same date, all funding would be authorized and paid on the same date.

If for some reason a student does not want to or cannot schedule all classes to begin on the same date then it would be necessary to budget based on the dates the classes begin.

### ***What if I have questions about this change?***

Please do not hesitate to contact the financial aid services office at your convenience during our normal operating hours, via our askfinaid email or via phone, we are here to help and will be happy to answer your questions.

## **It is important that you check MYSCF Portal at this time!**

*Do you have any outstanding Financial Aid requirements?*

*Have you completed the Terms and Conditions?*

*Have you authorized Title IV aid for book store charges?*

### **How to check if you have any outstanding requirements:**

- Log into MYSCF Portal
- Go to the Student Finances Tab
- Go to Financial Aid Requirements section
- Click on Progress tab and Select Aid Year – submit
- View status to see if documents are still needed

### **Have you accepted all of the aid that has been offered to you? How to check:**

- Log into MYSCF Portal
- Go to the Student Finances Tab
- Go to the 'Financial Aid Awards' link
- Select 'Aid Year 2018-2019'

**Please feel free to stop in during our office hours (below) to drop off any paperwork or to address any questions/concerns that you may have before the documents are due:**

Monday – 8:00am to 6:00pm

Tuesday – 8:00am to 6:00pm

Wednesday – Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm

Office of Financial Aid Services

State College of Florida

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