

El Camino College and El Camino College Compton Center

2016-2017 AWARD YEAR - CHANGES TO FINANCIAL AID REGULATIONS AND PROCESSES

Board of Governors Fee Waiver (BOGFW)

Students will need to meet academic and progress standards in addition to income criterion to receive the BOGFW beginning the Fall Semester 2016. Students will need to sustain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.0 and will need to maintain a cumulative satisfactory completion of more than 50% of attempted units. Students who lose their BOGFW eligibility may appeal directly with the Admissions & Records Office.

Federal Pell Grant

The U.S. Department of Education has confirmed that the maximum Federal Pell Grant award will increase to \$5,815 for the 2016-2017 Award Year – an increase of \$40 from the past award year.

Financial Literacy

The Financial Aid Office offers students a free suite of money management and financial literacy titled, Cash Course. More information is available on the Financial Aid Office webpage.

Freeze Date Implementation

The freeze date will lock units as of the census date for fall and spring semesters to determine financial aid eligibility for the term. This means that any changes to unit load following the census date (e.g., registration in late start classes, course withdrawals) will not result in changes to financial aid awards unless a student drops from all units. Students need to register early for classes in order to receive the maximum financial aid award.

Verification

The U.S. Department of Education selects financial aid applicants to complete a process titled Verification when an error has been made on the financial aid application or additional information is needed to determine financial aid eligibility. Students who are selected for Verification 1, 4, or 6, may subsequently be selected for Verification 5 and required to submit additional documentation to the Financial Aid Office.

Higher One → Bank Mobile Vibe

The U.S. Department of Education announced changes to how colleges and universities will work with third party vendors for the disbursement of federal student aid - this includes Higher One.

1. Disbursement Options - Students will only be given two disbursement options: (1) Direct Deposit into an existing bank account; and (2) ECC Debit Card. Students who do not select a disbursement option will automatically default to a paper check 14-days from the date of disbursement to be sent via U.S. mail. Students who had previously chosen paper checks as their preferred disbursement will be grandfathered.
2. Students will no longer automatically receive their ECC Debit Cards upfront. Students will need to choose the ECC Debit Card disbursement option in order to receive a card.
3. Higher One has been acquired by Customers Bank and as a result will have its name changed to Bank Mobile Vibe. New branding and marketing efforts will be initiated.
4. Bank Mobile Vibe will provide students with access to the Allpoint Network for over 43,000 ATMs nationwide, most fees will be removed or reduced, customer service hours will be expanded, and new ECC Debit Cards will be issued.

More information, please visit the Financial Aid Office at El Camino College or El Camino College Compton Center

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Early FAFSA Submission Date

The U.S. Department of Education announced that beginning with the 2017-2018 Award Year, students will be able to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) beginning on October 1, 2016, rather than the traditional submission date of January 1, 2017. The earlier submission date will be a permanent change.

Prior-Prior Year Income

The U.S. Department of Education announced that beginning with the 2017-2018 Award Year, students (and their parents, if dependents) will be able to report income information from an earlier tax year rather than just the immediate past tax year. For the 2017-2018 Award Year, information from tax year 2015 will be reported rather than their tax year 2016 income information. This means that for both the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 Award Years, financial aid applicants will utilize tax year 2015 income information.

Early CADAA Submission Date

The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) announced that beginning with the 2017-2018 Award Year, students will be able to submit the online and paper California Dream Act Application (CADAA) beginning on October 1, 2016, rather than the traditional submission date of January 1, 2017. The earlier submission date will be a permanent change. For faster processing time, CSAC recommends using the online application process.

FINANCIAL AID INITIATIVES

Financial Aid Awareness Fairs

The Financial Aid Offices have begun to host Financial Aid Awareness Fairs on-campus throughout the academic year to educate students on federal, state, and local financial aid opportunities.

Financial Aid “Go Live” Date

The Financial Aid Offices for the past three years have gone live with the awarding of financial aid on April 1st for the following award year thus allowing students to complete required documentation prior to summer. Students are automatically awarded the Board of Governors Fee Waiver (BOGFW) and Federal Pell Grant, if eligible.

Financial Aid Internal Priority Deadline

The Financial Aid Offices for the past three years have made a guarantee to students that if they apply for financial aid and submit all required documentation by June 1st they will receive their first financial aid disbursement during the first week of the fall semester. Students that apply or submit their documentation after June 1st will be processed on a first come, first served basis.

Financial Aid Outreach

The Financial Aid Offices have hired personnel specifically to conduct financial aid outreach efforts on-campus (including classroom presentations and campus events) and off-campus at high schools and other venues.

Financial Aid Student Ambassadors

The Financial Aid Offices have hired student employees to work in the Financial Aid Office Computer Labs to assist prospective and current students apply for financial aid and complete required documentation.

Financial Aid Webpages

The Financial Aid Offices have updated their respective webpages to include the vast majority of forms required for submission, helpful links to financial aid applications and resources, and applicable deadlines.