

Financial Aid Highlights

Financial Aid Highlights is a periodic electronic news update provided by the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships for the benefit of prospective and continuing CSUB students and parents, high school and community college counselors, faculty, and staff. The electronic publication will contain informational items pertaining to financial aid and scholarships of relevance to the CSUB community. Past issues are archived on the Financial Aid & Scholarships homepage at <http://www.csub.edu/finaid>. Additional information regarding any given topic may be obtained by calling the office at (661) 664-3016.

January Is the Time to Apply for Financial Aid and Scholarships - FAH (Vol. 7, No. 21)

Students are advised that January is the time to apply for financial aid and scholarships for the upcoming 2006-07 academic year. This year the common priority application deadline for financial aid in the 23-campus California State University (CSU) system and at CSUB is Thursday, March 2, 2006. Students applying by this deadline will receive first priority consideration for available funds. Those applying after March 2 will be considered for financial aid only if funds are available. The good news is that at CSUB, PELL Grant monies are typically always available for undergraduates and eligible teaching credential candidates, and Federal Direct Loan monies are an option for eligible students at all class levels.

Applying for financial aid has never been easier. In order to be considered for most types of financial aid, you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA may be completed in one of two ways: ELECTRONICALLY, which is the preferred method, or via the paper version available in the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships (OFA&S) located in Student Affairs Building 114. A copy of the paper version can also be obtained by phoning the Federal Student Aid Information Center at the toll-free number 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243). Teletype writers for the deaf (TTY) users may call 1-800-730-8913.

The award winning "FAFSA on the Web" is a free U.S. Department of Education website where you can complete a FAFSA online and submit it via the Internet. The Internet address is www.fafsa.ed.gov. The "FAFSA on the Web" is fast (7 to 14 days faster than using the mailed paper application), secure, easy, and reject-free. In addition, students are advised that the "FAFSA on the Web" Pre-Application Worksheets in English and Spanish are also available from www.fafsa.ed.gov. Many students like to complete the worksheet prior to filling out their online FAFSA.

FAFSA on the Web has been made even easier for students and their families to use. A feature has been added that allows students and parents to apply for a PIN (Personal Identification Number) while completing the application online. This means that a student who doesn't yet have a PIN can begin FAFSA on the Web, save the partially completed application online, then request a PIN and receive it through email in 1 to 3 days. This student can then return to FAFSA on the Web, retrieve the saved data and sign the application electronically. With the ability to apply and sign electronically, completing the FAFSA is faster and easier than ever before.

In addition to submission of the FAFSA, first-time Cal Grant applicants (and those who applied, but did not receive a Cal Grant in AY 2005-06 and are reapplying) must submit a GPA Verification Form to the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) by March 2, 2006. You may obtain this form from the OFA&S. If you **did** receive a Cal Grant while attending CSUB in AY 2005-06, you do not need to submit a GPA Verification Form to CSAC as the University will be submitting this information on your behalf.

Academic scholarships can also be an important part of your financial aid award. It is best to start your scholarship search early. Application packets for CSUB scholarships are available in the OFA&S and can also be downloaded from the office home page at www.csub.edu/FinAid/aid/scholar.html. The priority scholarship application deadline is Saturday, April 1, 2006.

Last year some 5,373 students attending CSUB received nearly \$33.4 million in financial aid and scholarships, so we encourage you to apply now so that you can receive priority consideration for the 2006-07 academic year. If you have any questions about applying, staff in the office are available to provide you with any help you may need in order to better understand the financial aid application and delivery process.

Steve Herndon, Ph. D.

Senior Division Director

University Services Division I:

Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships (OFA&S)

Services for Students with Disabilities Office (SSD)