

WHAT'S NEW IN FINANCIAL AID

2016-2017

Board of Governors Fee Waiver – New Eligibility Regulations Effective Fall 2016: California Community College students receiving the BOGFW must meet minimum academic and progress standards to remain eligible for the BOGFW due to changes made by SB 1456 Student Success Act of 2012 to Title 5 of the California Education Code.

Students must:

- Maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 (Academic Standard)
- Successfully complete at least 50% of all units attempted (Progress Standard)

If a student is placed on academic and/or progress probation for two consecutive primary terms (fall or spring semester), they will lose eligibility for the BOG Fee Waiver as well as enrollment priority. For more information on this regulation and the conditions by which students can appeal, please see <http://smccd.edu/faprobatation/>. Students are encouraged to utilize the numerous support services on campus to help them regain good academic standing.

FSA ID: Starting May 10, 2015, the Federal Student Aid PIN will be replaced by the new FSA ID, which will enable students, parents, and borrowers to create a username and password to access their federal student aid information.

Benefits of the FSA ID

- Requires users to enter less information (2 fields instead of 4)
- Provides more secure access to user's information
- Links to FSA PIN information during registration (not required)
- Allows users to update personal information, such as last name changes, without applying for a new FSA ID (Lifetime ID)

PELL Grant Updates: For 2016-2017, the Pell Grant award amount and the maximum Expected Family Contribution (EFC) for Pell eligibility has changed.

Pell Grant Updates	2015-2016	2016-2017
Pell Grant Award Amount	\$5,775	\$5,815
Maximum EFC	5198	5234

REMEMBER, students are limited to a 600% Pell grant lifetime eligibility (equivalent to 12 full-time semesters/6 years of full-time enrollment).

To view your Lifetime Eligibility Used (LEU), please visit www.nslsds.ed.gov

[The State of California recognized GED, HiSET and TASC.](#)**

HiSET, New High School Equivalency Alternative: It's a new program developed by Educational Testing Service (ETS) that can be used as a high school equivalency. The HiSET exam measures knowledge and skills in five subject areas: Language Arts – Reading, Language

Arts – Writing, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies.

Currently, there are only 3 locations within 25 mile radius from San Mateo where they can take the HiSET exam. Please refer to the following list:

- South San Francisco Adult School – paper version only
- Alameda Adult School – paper version only
- Berkeley Adult School – paper and computer version

For more information and additional locations, go to <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/gd>