



Financial Aid News

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Fall
2009

The Financial Aid office and Registration office have joined forces!

In our continuing effort to serve students efficiently and effectively, our offices have merged to become a single contact point that can take care of all your financial aid and registration needs. Specialists have been cross-trained and are ready to continue the top-notch service you have come to expect from the staff here at Stark State College!

**Special Points
of Interest**



The Financial Aid and Registration offices will be contacting students through their SSCT email accounts from this point forward. **Check your email often to stay up to date!!**

All **new** students are encouraged to attend an in-person orientation session. Information regarding fall orientation dates will be mailed to students prior to the beginning of the term.

Remember to always check with the Financial Aid Office prior to dropping any classes.

Standards of Academic Progress (SAP) Policy

Be sure to read the new policy, it's posted in the mystarkstate portal or a copy is available in S308.

Stafford Loan application process has changed

Here are the steps you must follow so Stark State College can certify a loan for you.

You must formally accept the offer of the Stafford Loan. Visit www.starkstate.edu/mystarkstate to accept, decline, or decrease the amount of your student loan. You will need your Stark State User Name and Password to access your online award notification.

Previous borrowers:

Electronic acceptance of your Stafford Loan at www.starkstate.edu/mystarkstate is all that is required.

First time borrowers:

1. Prior to applying for your Stafford Loan you will be asked to select a lender. An outline of the services our Preferred Lenders offer is available before you commit to any loan.
2. After you electronically accept your Stafford Loan, all new borrowers will be asked to complete online *Loan Entrance Counseling*. This will help you understand your rights and responsibilities that are associated with student loans.
3. You will also be required to complete a *Master Promissory Note (MPN)* online. When you accept your loan offer online, Stark State certifies your eligibility for the loan. If you do not complete your MPN online within 7 days of this certification, a paper MPN will be sent to you from Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation. If an MPN is not completed, your loan CANNOT be guaranteed by Great Lakes. This will cause a delay in the disbursement of your loan funds. Visit www.starkstate.edu/loans, click on 'Apply for Your Loan' to get started.

How do I know if I owe for Fall classes?

After you have registered for Fall classes, please allow 24 hours for aid to appear on your account as a potential credit. **(If you've not yet been awarded financial aid, please check the status of your file on MyStarkState website.)** If financial aid doesn't cover 100% of your bill, you must pay the difference by August 12, 2009. Students registering and/or paying during Late Registration will be assessed a \$20 registration fee.

PLEASE NOTE: That your hours enrolled will be locked in at the end of the sixth day of class, which is August 31, 2009. After this date, there will be no changes to your financial aid and the amount will be based on your hours enrolled at that time. Any changes to your schedule will not constitute an increase or decrease of aid unless you are dropped at a 100% tuition refund or you drop all your classes for the semester. In addition, you will be evaluated for Standards of Academic Progress at the end of the semester based on these locked hours.

Federal Withdrawal Policies

Return of Title IV Federal Student Aid

This requirement applies to you *ONLY* if:

- 1) You received federal student aid (Pell, FSEOG, & Stafford Loans), AND
- 2) You are withdrawing prior to completing 60% of the semester for which the aid was provided.

Federal law now specifies how a school must determine the amount of federal student aid (Pell, FSEOG, & Stafford Loans) that a student earns if they withdraw prior to completing 60% of an enrollment/payment period. The amount of federal financial assistance that the student earns is determined on a pro-rata basis. Once the stu-

dent has completed more than 60% of the payment period, all financial assistance is considered earned. The 60% period for Fall session expires October 30, 2009.

Students who fail to maintain attendance in classes, withdraw, or are dismissed before the above date will have all or a portion of their federal aid eligibility rescinded. This will likely result in monies needing to be repaid to the College and/or the U.S. Department of Education.

If you have any question about how this law may affect you, please contact the Financial Aid Office before officially withdrawing from the College.



Bookstore Purchases for Fall Semester

The Bookstore will begin selling books for Fall Semester classes on August 12, 2009 at the Self Service Textbook Center located in Room G105. Dates and times for purchases are as follows:

Monday—Thursday	8 am—8 pm
Friday	8 am—4 pm
Saturdays — 8/15	8 am—12 pm
8/22	8 am—2 pm



'Did you know that you can order your books online by using your credit card? Go to www.starkstate.edu/bookstore.htm for more information.'

Attendance/Refund Policy Statement

The Federal Government mandates that federal monies be refunded accordingly when a student is not in attendance in class(es). Therefore, SSCT will monitor class attendance for ALL students since it is not obvious which students receive federal funds.

Students who never begin attendance will be dropped at the 100% refund amount from their class(es). Students who begin attendance in their class(es) and then cease attending during the term, may have their

financial aid canceled or reduced so that the Federal Government can receive a refund.

Note: Students who begin attendance in class(es) and cease attending need to officially withdraw themselves by processing an Add/Drop Form in the Registration Office.



Fall Refund Checks

Students who have not authorized Stark State College to hold their funds on account and have excess grant or loan funds after tuition and fees are deducted should receive a refund check by mail the week before classes begin. If changes are made to your schedule after August 12, 2009 your refund may be delayed until sometime after the first week of classes. **Note:** If the guarantor of your loan is not Great Lakes, you will be required to endorse your check at the Cashier's Window before your funds can be posted to your account for a potential refund. The College will notify you by mail when you are able to endorse your check.

Federal Work Study Info (FWSP)

If you requested FWSP on the FAFSA, you must formally accept the award offer prior to applying for a job.

Visit www.starkstate.edu to accept or decline the amount of your work award. You will need your Stark State User Name and Password to access your online award notification. If you didn't request FWSP on the FAFSA, stop in the Financial Aid Office for steps to apply.

For positions currently available, please check the bulletin board outside our office or check our website at: