

# Financial Aid Disbursement Policy

## ► Current Practice

- Disburse aid on the first day of each term.
- Modify aid every time throughout the term that the student changes their course schedule.
- Causes backlog of processing change in aid forms as well as debits/credits to the student account throughout the term.

## ► Proposal

- Establish a specific date/time to verify student enrollment level and disburse aid based on that enrollment (AKA: Fin Aid census date).
- Change the timing of when we disburse financial aid to the day after the add/drop deadline.
- Only disburse aid 1x based on the enrollment as of the census date.
- No more need for change in aid forms.

## ► Why a proposed Change?

- We want to start covering charges to the bookstore.
- We are a target for fraud rings with our current practice:
  - 28 flagged files for 2017-2018– we owed the government \$28k for aid that was disbursed for people posing as students.
  - If grade changes occur that indicate the students never attended in 2018-2019, we will owe back around \$65K.
  - Every time a student adds/drops their course, their aid is potentially impacted:
    - Students don't realize the impact their schedule changes have on their aid and cannot rely on their aid package to cover their tuition and fees accurately.
    - Changes to the schedule cause delays in aid getting disbursed.
    - Responsibility falls to the student to notify Fin Aid Office related to changing enrollment status (E.g. full time to part-time) which holds up their aid disbursement and causes confusion and the potential for late/service charges (\$30).
- Fin Aid office processes over 1000 “change in aid” forms each year creating a lot of administrative backlog.
  - We want to spend this time on allocating and distributing aid and financial literacy conversations instead.
- Retention issue if students owe money back to financial aid at the end of the term – can't progress

## Pros:

- ▶ Will allow financial aid disbursements to pay Bookstore charges or any charges (example future meal plan).
- ▶ Helps reduce fraud rings and saves CCC money.
- ▶ Allows students to add and drop their courses throughout the term without any impact to their aid package.
- ▶ Will eliminate the change in aid process:
  - ▶ Eliminates the responsibility of the student to notify Fin Aid about change in schedule.
- ▶ Best practice that aligns our policy with all other CC's in Oregon.
- ▶ Allows students to withdraw within the first two weeks of term without having to repay aid.
- ▶ Creates the option for CCC to provide auto fin aid awarding.

## Considerations:

- ▶ Starting in summer 2020 students would receive aid after we have verified enrollment (2 weeks after the start of term).
- ▶ Changes the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) for Fin Aid date to tie with the census date.

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the left and right sides of the frame, leaving a large white central area. The shapes are layered, creating a sense of depth and movement.

Questions?