

## Session 6 - Student Eligibility

*By the end of this session, you will be able to:*

- *describe general criteria for student eligibility,*
- *use the General Student Eligibility Checklist to determine student eligibility for Title IV aid, and*
- *locate student eligibility information in The 1997-98 Federal Student Financial Aid Handbook.*

### RESOURCES:

- *The 1997-98 Federal Student Financial Aid Handbook, Chapter 2*
- *The 1997-98 Student Guide*

### SESSION CONTENTS:

1. Need to Know
  - ◆ General Student Eligibility Checklist
  - ◆ Chart — Program-Specific Student Eligibility Criteria
2. Practice
  - ◆ Student Eligibility Exercises
3. Back at the Office
4. Answer Key

## **NEED TO KNOW**

**Insert General Student Eligibility Checklist**

## **Insert Program Specific Eligibility Criteria**

## PRACTICE

### Student Eligibility Exercises

#### Instructions

Four students have applied for federal financial aid. Each student has a different educational goal and wishes to attend a specific school. Put yourself in the financial aid office at each school and answer the student's questions.

**Step 1:** Read each student scenario.

**Step 2:** Review the student scenario using the student eligibility checklist to determine eligibility.

**Step 3:** Answer the student questions at the end of the exercise.

#### Student 1—Justin

**Justin Case** is a 21-year-old student enrolled in Foster Business College (FBC). Justin was born and raised in Guam, and has spent the past 3 and 1/2 years working periodically on construction jobs. He now wants to take a six-month, 600-clock-hour course in computerized information management at FBC to obtain a computer operator certificate.

As Justin never finished high school, he took FBC's aptitude test (approved by ED) and scored a passing grade of 78. Justin received a Student Aid Report (SAR) with a Pell-eligible Expected Family Contribution (EFC). Justin indicates that he is not required to register with the Selective Service because he is a conscientious objector. Justin was selected for verification and has promised the aid administrator that he will bring in the appropriate tax documents once his mother sends them to him. Justin did not list any previous colleges or schools on his financial aid application, so FBC has not requested any financial aid transcripts.

## PRACTICE (cont'd)

Justin's Questions:

1. Am I able to receive Title IV aid at your school?

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2. If yes, why?

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3. If no, which student eligibility criteria did I not meet, and what can I do, if anything, to become eligible for Title IV financial aid at your school?

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### Student 2—Kay C.

**Kay C. Fudd** is a 17-year-old high school graduate from Springfield, IA, where she was born and raised.

The university she plans to attend informs her that she needs to take a few remedial courses before she can enroll in their program. So, Kay enrolls at Dunn Community College for the summer and fall terms.

She was selected for verification and was asked to bring in documents pertaining to the amount of Social Security benefits she'll be receiving after her 18th birthday.

## **PRACTICE (cont'd)**

She submitted a Student Aid Report (SAR) that stated she was not eligible for a Pell Grant. Since her Expected Family Contribution (EFC) was less than the cost of her education, she was able to qualify for other financial aid.

### **Kay C.'s Questions:**

1. Am I eligible to receive Title IV financial aid at your school, Dunn Community College?

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2. If yes, why?

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3. If no, which student eligibility criteria did I not meet, and what can I do, if anything, to become eligible for Title IV financial aid at your school?

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## PRACTICE (cont'd)

### Student 3—Elena

**Elena Del Castillo** is self-supporting and is enrolled at Tower Community College (TCC) for the current award year. She is starting the second year of her occupational therapy course, which is a two-year degree program.

Elena was born in Puerto Rico and graduated from Notre Dame High School in Caguas, Puerto Rico. She attended Hall Technical Institute (HTI) for one year before coming to TCC. According to a written certification from HTI, she did not receive any Title IV aid.

The financial aid administrator checks Elena's previous spring-semester academic transcript and finds that she has completed 38 credits with a GPA of 2.8, which surpasses the school's satisfactory academic progress standards. Elena's Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is less than the cost of attendance (COA) for her program, but she is not eligible for the Federal Pell Grant Program. Elena was not selected for verification.

### Elena's Questions:

1. Am I eligible to receive Title IV financial aid at your school?

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2. If yes, why?

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## PRACTICE (cont'd)

3. If no, which student eligibility criteria did I not meet and what can I do, if anything, to become eligible for Title IV financial aid at your school?

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### Student 4—Jacques

**Jacques Bertrand** is a 27-year-old independent student enrolled at the World Language Institute (WLI). To better communicate with customers in his current job, he is in a conversational English course for 3 credits.

Jacques and his family came to the U.S. in 1991 from France. Jacques has received his Student Aid Report (SAR) with a Pell-eligible Expected Family Contribution (EFC) and has delivered it to the financial aid administrator. His SAR indicates that the Central Processing System (CPS) did not confirm him to be an eligible noncitizen, and WLI is in the process of further reviewing his citizenship status. His SAR also reflects that he was selected for verification, and Jacques delivered all appropriate documents to verify the information reported on his application for financial aid.

Jacques indicated that he attended Toulouse Polytechnic Institute (TPI) in France during 1990. The financial aid administrator requested a financial aid transcript from TPI, but after six weeks still has not received a response.

### Jacques' Questions:

1. Am I eligible to receive Title IV financial aid at your school?

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## **PRACTICE (cont'd)**

2. If yes, why?

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3. If no, which student eligibility criteria did I not meet, and what can I do, if anything, to become eligible for Title IV financial aid at your school?

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## BACK AT THE OFFICE

Back at the office, you should:

- Keep a copy of the general student eligibility checklist handy or construct a checklist adapted for your school.
- Review Chapter 2 of *The Federal Student Financial Aid Handbook*.
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## ANSWER KEY

### Solution to Justin

**Q:** Is Justin eligible to receive Title IV financial aid?

**A:** No, Justin does not meet all the general student eligibility criteria.

- ◆ **Number 8 on checklist**—Justin was not confirmed in the Selective Service match, as he is **not** registered.

Being a conscientious objector does not exempt him from registering with the Selective Service.

Since he has not registered, he is not eligible for Title IV aid.

- ◆ **Number 13 on checklist**—As Justin was selected for verification, the school must complete this process.

A promise to bring in the required documents is not enough and until Justin brings the document, verification can't be completed.

- ◆ To become eligible for Title IV aid, Justin must register with Selective Service and complete the verification process.

### Solution to Kay C.

**Q:** Is Kay C. eligible to receive Title IV financial Aid?

**A:** No, Kay C. does not meet all general eligibility criteria. Here is why:

- ◆ **Number 2 on checklist**—She is not enrolled as a regular student in an eligible program at Dunn Community College.
- ◆ **Number 4 on checklist**—Since Kay C. will be enrolled solely in a **remedial** program, she is ineligible for Title IV aid.
- ◆ **Number 13 on checklist**—Kay C. was selected for verification and was asked to bring in documentation. This has not been done.
- ◆ Kay C. must complete verification and enroll as a regular student in a regular program to be eligible for Title IV aid.

## ANSWER KEY

### Solution to Elena

**Q:** Is Elena eligible to receive Title IV financial aid?

**A:** Yes, Elena does meet all the general student eligibility criteria.

### Solution to Jacques

**Q:** Is Jacques eligible to receive Title IV financial aid?

**A:** No, Jacques does not meet all the general student eligibility criteria. Here is why:

- ◆ **Number 1 on checklist**—Until Jacques can document his eligible noncitizen status, he is not eligible for Title IV aid.
- ◆ **Number 2 on checklist**—Jacques does not meet the definition of a regular student because he is not enrolled for the purpose of obtaining a degree or certificate.
- ◆ Jacques must document his eligible noncitizen status and enroll in a program to earn a degree or certificate in order to be eligible for Title IV.