Greetings from Financial Aid Services!

It is our pleasure to introduce the first issue of our newsletter: FAS MAKES CENTS. Financial aid is in constant flux. It may seem as if things in financial aid change with the season (they do!) In an effort to keep the campus community up-to-date on this ever-changing office, this newsletter will endeavor to provide information on current trends, FAQs, and other important matters arising in Financial Aid. This edition includes the impact withdrawing from classes has on financial aid, the Financial Aid Progress requirements, and details about Financial Aid Services involvement in withdrawing from the university.

Financial Aid Services strives to champion our students. The goal of this newsletter is to keep our community abreast of details of the “season” so we may counsel students as accurately and informatively as possible. We encourage the community to provide feedback. Please feel free to contact us with any questions, requests for topics covered in the newsletter, or concerns with any content. Please email any feedback to Johnée Border at: border@kutztown.edu.

This newsletter will be produced bi-weekly. We suggest archiving each issue for continued access. Thank you for being a part of this community and helping us champion our students. We appreciate all that you do!

- Financial Aid Services

Championing Students—What We Mean

From faculty to staff, we all have unique opportunities to connect with and educate our students in life and the classroom. The concept of “championing students” is to develop relationships, connections, and understanding. Educator James Comer states, “No significant learning occurs without a significant relationship.” In order for our students to be successful here at Kutztown, they need confidence to know there are resources and people who want them to succeed.

Providing financial aid information to faculty, advisors, and other community members who may receive questions about financial aid from students is part of how we are striving to achieve this goal.

“Every child deserves a champion. An adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection, and insists that they become the best that they could possibly be.” - Rita Pierson, educator 40+ years, TED Talks

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There are academic requirements a student must meet in order to receive federal financial aid. These requirements include maintaining at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA and a 2/3 or 66.67% cumulative completion rate. The completion rate calculates the number of new earned credits out of the number of attempted credits.

A student who is not meeting the financial aid progress requirements will have one semester of warning to make progress. If they do not meet the financial aid progress requirements, they will be placed on financial aid suspension, and would be ineligible to receive any federal financial aid until they meet the financial aid progress requirements. It is important students understand Academic Warnings and Academic Appeals are not the same as financial aid progress warnings and financial aid progress appeals.

A student who wishes to file a financial aid progress appeal must do so by the first day of the semester. A successful appeal provides students with one additional warning semester to make progress, The student must also follow an academic plan set forth by FAS.

Students on financial aid suspension, who withdraw from the university but plan to return, may continue to be on suspension upon their return to the university regardless of academic forgiveness. Withdrawing from classes impacts a student’s completion rate. We encourage students who plan to withdraw from a class to stop by Financial Aid Services first to check their financial aid progress and the possible impact of withdrawal.

Students planning to withdraw from KU entirely should speak with Financial Aid Services before submitting the withdrawal forms to the Registrar’s Office. When a student withdraws, we must calculate a percentage of the student’s federal financial aid that must be returned to the Dept. of Education. This may result in the student owing a balance to the university. We cannot calculate or estimate the amount the student will owe the university until the withdrawal is official.

A student planning to return to KU after withdrawing should be aware of their financial aid progress standing before they return. They may return, but may not be eligible to receive federal aid without an approved appeal. Students are advised to contact Financial Aid Services before they intend to return to check their financial aid progress standing.

What does “Classes Safe” mean?
Students with a “Classes Safe” service indicator on their account are either on a payment plan or are PHEAA recipients. This is a positive service indicator to prevent classes from being dropped despite a balance on the student’s account. Financial aid may not cover balances received from miscellanies charges (e.g. parking tickets.)

Am I eligible to apply for the “Special Bear Bucks” program?
Students must contact Financial Aid Services to check their eligibility and complete a request form.
We look forward to introducing the Financial Aid Services team in the following editions!

Just Our 2 Cents Trivia Time answer

Where was the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA) signed?  
President Johnson’s Alma Mater, Texas State University

Stay Tuned...

Please join us in the following editions where we will discuss how to pay for winter classes, updates on the state budget, the end of the Perkins Loan.

What was the original precursor to the Perkins Loan program? Find out in our next release!