

## Federal Aid Policies

**Note:** Please keep this information sheet with other important financial aid documents

**Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)** - To be eligible for federal financial assistance a student must meet minimum Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards each semester - including Summer. Satisfactory Academic Progress is defined as passing a required number of hours and achieving a required overall cumulative grade point average during each semester while pursuing a degree program. Review the complete SAP Policy online at [sfa.lsua.edu/AppProcess/SAP](http://sfa.lsua.edu/AppProcess/SAP) to ensure compliance. If you do not meet SAP you have the option to submit a financial aid appeal. If approved, you will be placed on a contract you must continue meeting in order to be SAP eligible. Students can submit up to 4 appeals over their enrollment at LSUA.

### Ineligible Courses for Federal Financial Aid

**Courses towards your degree/certificate** - Federal aid can only be provided to students for courses that count towards their degree or certificate program. If a student is enrolled in courses that do not count toward any degree, then the course(s) cannot be used to determine the student's enrollment status. Enrollment status is used to determine the amount of hours the student is enrolled in to determine the amount of financial aid a student can be awarded.

**Repeated Courses** - Federal financial aid may be paid for repeated coursework previously taken, but may not include more than one repetition of a previously passed course. This means courses for which you have passed with a grade "D" or greater can only be repeated once more to count in the enrollment status used in the determination for Federal financial aid eligibility.

**\*Additional Rule for Co-requisite courses\*** If a course is a co-requisite of another course then, the course cannot be counted towards your enrollment status once passed with a D,P, or greater, unless taken with the failed course, it can count 1 more. Ex = Nurs 1020/Nurs 1021.

**Remedial Courses** - Federal financial aid will only cover up to 30 credit hours of remedial courses, Once a student has attempted over 30 credit hours of remedial courses they will no longer be eligible to receive federal financial aid for any remedial courses taken thereafter. Please note this does not mean you become 100% ineligible for the federal financial aid, but any remedial course(s) registered in will not count towards your enrollment status required in the calculation of federal financial aid.

**\*\*Academic bankrupted hours still count in your financial aid attempted hours total, as well as repeated and remedial coursework.\*\***

### Enrollment Requirements

To be eligible for Federal financial aid, you must be 1.) in an eligible degree program and 2.) enrolled in eligible courses defined above.

**\*\*All awards are subject to change at any given time; monitor your accounts daily for updates. Until the Financial Aid Office receives your official enrollment information all awards are assumed on a full time enrollment status. You may see awards on your account based on all enrolled hours, including ineligible hours. Once we determine your official enrollment status the awards may be reduced, adjusted, or removed based on the appropriate rules and regulations.\*\***

**Loans** - Students must be enrolled in at least a half time status of eligible courses in an eligible degree program to qualify for any Direct Stafford Loan.

**Pell Grant** - Students eligible for grants do not have to initially enroll full time to receive grants. Grants are pro-rated based upon the student's EFC (Expected Family Contribution) and eligible hours enrolled. While some degree programs consider students at full time status when enrolled less than 12 credit hours (i.e. student teaching, nursing clinicals, etc.), federal financial assistance is always based on actual hours enrolled and attending.

### Direct Stafford Loan Information

All first time loan borrowers and/or all first time loan borrowers at LSUA must complete an Entrance Counseling Session and Master Promissory Note at [studentloans.gov](https://studentloans.gov) (<https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/index.action>) to be eligible for loan disbursement.

All Direct Stafford Loans must be disbursed in two separate disbursements regardless of the length of the loan period. For example, student attending both Fall and Spring semester will generally receive two disbursements within that year - one in the Fall and another in the Spring semester. Students attending only one semester or beginning their attendance after the Fall semester will receive two disbursements

within the semester - one after the 14th class day and the other around the midpoint of the semester. Student loans have an origination fee that is taken out of every disbursement. As these amounts change each year please review the disbursement tab of your Netpartner for this information, as well as this years interest rate.

### Verification

Some FAFSA's are selected by the Department of Education for a process called verification. You will have a comment on your student aid report notifying you of this. This means the financial aid office will require additional documentation to confirm your eligibility. Please note that any aid awarded prior to your verification being completed is subject to change, therefore please submit all requested documents as soon as possible.

### Disbursement Information

**All aid is typically scheduled for disbursement after the 14th class day or census day unless you are classified as one of the below categories:**

**First time loan borrowers** - If this is your first time borrowing a student loan or you have a \$0.00 loan balance, your first loan disbursement will take place after the 30th class day of a regular semester time period. A regular semester does not include pre-session, 1st session, 2nd session, 3rd session, etc; Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters are considered a "regular" semester only. The 30 day delay will only take place in the first semester you borrow.

**Transfer students** - The classification for transfer students for Federal Aid is based on the amount of earned credit hours that are approved on their LSUA official transcript. If your transfer credits have been reviewed and accepted then your loan will be processed based on the amount of earned hours you have on your record with LSUA.

### Anticipated Aid/Bookstore Credits

Prior to disbursements, all accepted aid will be applied to the student's fee bill as "anticipated aid" and this is viewable in the students self service account. If the anticipated aid covers all tuition and fee's, the remaining aid will automatically be applied to a bookstore allowance up to \$1200. The bookstore allowance will post onto the fee bill.

**\*\*Anticipated aid is removed and any unused bookstore credit is removed once actual disbursements occur\*\***

***Please note:*** *If for any reason you lose your eligibility for financial aid during the semester, all charges are still valid and must be paid including bookstore charges.*

### Refunds

A student refund is applied once all aid for the student has been disbursed. The process of disbursement can be monitored through the students Net Partner and Self Service account. The date of disbursement does not mean the date of refund. Once the disbursement occurs the financial aid information is transferred to the Accounting Office to post the information onto the students fee bill and then any potential refund is issued. If the disbursed aid is in excess of the student's tuition, fees, and all other charges, then the remaining amount is refunded to the student. A student can either set up direct deposit to receive their refund or a check will be mailed to the address on file for the student. Please keep in mind that this process can take a minimum of 14 business days.

### Return of Title IV Funds

Students who do not maintain enrollment up to the 60% mark for the semester (includes resignations and unofficial withdrawals, which is when you stop attending) will have a portion of any Federal aid returned to the Department of Education. This means that you will owe back LSUA the amount of funds we have to return. Once the FAO receives the resignation information from the Registrars office we must calculate the percentage of pell grants and/or loans that you earned based on your dates of attendance, any unearned portion will be returned.

### Subsidized Usage Limits

First time borrowers as of July 1, 2013 are limited to how much they can receive in subsidized loans, on top of the aggregate subsidized loan limit. Students may only receive subsidized loans for up to 150% of their published program length. This means that if you are in a 4 year degree, you have 6 years of subsidized loan eligibility (or up to your lifetime limit). Say you use 5 years then change your major to a 2 year degree. A 2 year degree has a SULA eligibility period of 3 years, meaning you will no longer be eligible to receive subsidized loans.