

# FINANCIAL AID NEWS

## IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO APPLY— BUT IT'S NOT EARLY EITHER

### QUESTION OF THE DAY

**When can I expect to receive my award letter for 2008-2009?**

**If you file your 08-09 FAFSA before the end of June 2008 and bring in all the paperwork we request, you should receive your award letter during the summer. If you don't have it by August, ask or check the web.**

**We encourage you to read the "Award Guide" enclosed with your Award letter. It should answer a lot of questions.**

### Office Hours

Mon—Thurs 10am-2pm

Mon nights 5-7pm

Closed Fridays

(310) 233-4320

FAX (310) 233-4681

Email us at

lahcsff@lahc.edu

At the beginning of June, the Financial Aid Office already has hundreds of complete files for 2008-09. All students who wish to be considered for financial aid for fall 2008 and spring 2009 must file a 2008-09FAFSA. If you have not yet started this process, you should begin right now. Imagine standing in line with hundreds of people in front of you and the line growing bigger every minute.

The best way to apply is to go to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) and complete a 2008-09 FAFSA. You are welcome to use our computer lab next door to the Financial Aid Office. If you complete your file before the end of June, and you are eligible, you will receive your first check during the first week of the fall semester.

If you wait until just before the semester begins or later, your payment will be delayed. Don't wait any longer. The Financial Aid Office is open all summer.

It is important that you respond to all correspondence we send to you. We often need additional documentation to complete your file. If you don't bring in the paperwork we request, your aid will not be processed and you will not get your checks on time.

### Keep Address Current

If your address changes, you must let



The New Student Services Center— we move in during fall

us know. You want us to be able to keep in contact with you and you certainly want your checks to go to the correct address. We encourage all students to set up EFT (electronic fund transfer) so we can deposit your aid directly to your checking or savings account. Ask us about further details on how to set up EFT—the safest and best way to receive your financial aid payments. We have a free gift for those who set up EFT.

## FINANCIAL AID WEB PAGE—A WEALTH OF INFORMATION

You are missing out if you have not spent some time exploring the Financial Aid web page at [lahc.edu/finaid](http://lahc.edu/finaid). Financial Aid TV is a terrific way to get video answers to many of your questions—check it out!

A new addition this year is our link to CashCourse.org. Most students are not experts when it comes to money manage-

ment. There is very useful information on dozens of topics. Money management is a skill you can learn—start now.

As always, you can click on "Check Financial Aid Application Status" to link to the Student Information System and check on documents needed, disbursement dates, and more. It's available 24/7.

**“If you had a fee waiver for 2007-08, it does not carry over to summer 2008. You must reapply.”**

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR SUMMER SCHOOL PELL GRANT?

At Harbor College, we consider summer to be a “trailer” to the 2007-08 academic year for financial aid purposes. So, in order to be eligible for summer Pell Grant you must

- Have a valid 2007-08 financial aid application on file.
- Have unused Pell Grant funds for the year (students who received full-time aid for fall 2007 and spring 2008 at any college would have used all their Pell Grant.)
- Be making satisfactory academic progress

Processing summer Pell Grant is a manual system and is extremely complex and time-consuming. Students should not expect to see payment for summer Pell Grant until August. You should expect to buy your books and supplies on your own and if you

are eligible, you will be reimbursed later.

If you have filed a 2008-09 FAFSA and are eligible, your summer fee waiver will be posted automatically. ***If you had a fee waiver for 2007-08, it does not carry over to summer 2008. You must reapply.*** So the easiest way to receive a fee waiver for the summer is to file the new FAFSA. If you do not have a new fee waiver posted, your summer fees will be deducted from your summer Pell check. Many students will receive a fee waiver, only some will be eligible for a Pell Grant for the summer.

If you think you are eligible for a summer Pell Grant, check in July to see if you are on our list.

## WHEN YOU WITHDRAW, YOU MAY OWE US MONEY. HOW TO AVOID OVERPAYMENTS.

When you stop attending a class, it is your responsibility to withdraw officially. If you wait for your instructor to drop you there will likely be a delay. If it is found that you have been paid for classes that you are no longer attending, you may owe a repayment.

All students who receive grant aid who withdraw from all classes during the first half of the semester may be considered overpaid. Many students who have received their first check and later drop below 6 units may

also be considered overpaid.

Students who have a federal grant overpayment have a hold placed on their college records and lose eligibility for financial aid at all colleges. They may also be sent to a federal collection agency. It is very serious.

Financial aid recipients who are withdrawing from classes should check with the financial aid office to discuss their options.

**“it is your responsibility to withdraw officially.”**

## NO NEED TO STAND IN LINE

Did you know that you can completely avoid the lines outside of the Financial Aid Office? Every student who files a FAFSA and is eligible for grant aid must provide additional paperwork to our office. When we receive your processed FAFSA, we send you an email (if you provided an email address) or a letter asking for the additional documentation. If you read carefully, we provide the link to our financial aid web page where you can find all the forms you need.

You must be sure to choose the

forms for the correct year. You can print them and fax them, mail them, or if you must see our smiling faces, we are glad to accept them in person. If you have a complex situation to discuss, in person may be best. Most students can, if they follow our directions carefully, complete all their paperwork without ever setting foot in our office.

You may call us or email us with questions. Our phone number and email address is on the front of the Newsletter. Your time is valuable—avoid the lines!

**“be sure to choose the forms for the correct year”**