



# FINANCIAL AID NEWSLETTER

July 2009

## Import Notice: Per Unit Fee to Increase



There have been a number of recent proposals by legislators to increase per unit fees at Community Colleges for the 2009-10 year, including the Fall 2009 semester.

Please be aware that these additional fees will be applied to your account upon this proposal passing. If you qualify to have your fees waived by the BOG Fee Waiver, the additional cost per unit will also be covered by the BOG Fee Waiver.

If you have not applied for a fee waiver and think you will need help with the increased fees, use the FAFSA 2009-10 online application to apply at:

[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)



## BOG Fee Waiver

California residents who attend community colleges may be eligible to have their enrollment fees waived. There are three ways to qualify: use the [Board of Governors Fee Waiver](#) application for Method A or Method B, or use the FAFSA for Method C.

**Method A:** For families who are receiving TANF/CalWORKs, SSI/SSP or General Assistance. The following special classifications are also eligible: some dependents of Veterans or National Guard; recipient or the child of a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor or a dependent of a victim of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack; or a dependent of a deceased law enforcement officer or fire suppression personnel killed in the line of duty. Verification is required.

**Method B:** For families who meet established income criteria. For dependent students eligibility is based on parent income. If a dependent student does not live with one or both parents and is not claimed as dependent on parent income tax return, that student may fill out the income section based on their income. They will be considered a dependent student for all student aid except this enrollment fee waiver.

**Method C:** Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). The Financial Aid Office will determine unmet need after an Expected Family Contribution has been established.

### Special Circumstances for Families

A family's 2008 total income is used in determining eligibility for student financial aid in the 2009-2010 academic year. There are circumstances that can drastically alter a family's financial picture and hinder the ability to assist in meeting educational expenses. In such cases, the 2009 income may be utilized to assess financial need.

In order to request a "Special Circumstance" petition, a 2009-2010 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) must be on file before a special circumstance is considered. Documentation may be required, as determined by the Financial Aid Office.

To request a review of extenuating circumstances which were not reflected on your 2009-2010 financial aid application (FAFSA) you will need to pick up a Special Circumstance Petition from the Financial Aid Office.

### What's a SAR?

Once you submit your FAFSA and it has been processed, the Department of Education will send you a **Student Aid Report (SAR)** via e-mail or mail (if no e-mail address was provided) and send your information to each school you listed on the FAFSA.

The SAR contains the information you provided on the FAFSA and lists your expected family contribution, or EFC, for the school year. If there is no EFC listed, your SAR is incomplete and you must provide additional information or corrections before your EFC can be calculated.

Review your SAR. If there are any mistakes, you can make corrections online ([www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)) or contact the Financial Aid Office for help.

If you don't receive your SAR within three weeks or if you need another copy, go to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) and print your SAR or call 1-800-4FED-AID (1-800-433-3243).