

Appealing Ineligibility for Financial Aid

Appealing Financial Aid Ineligibility Due to Unusual Enrollment

The U.S. Department of Education has established new regulations to prevent fraud and abuse in the Federal Pell Grant Program by identifying students with unusual enrollment histories. Some students with an unusual enrollment history (UEH) have legitimate reasons for their enrollment at multiple institutions. However, the Central Piedmont Financial Aid Office is required to review files of students with unusual enrollment history to determine future federal financial aid eligibility. If selected by the Department of Education (via the FAFSA), a resolution must be determined before they can receive financial aid.

Definition of Unusual Enrollment History

The Department of Education selects students for review who received a Federal Pell Grant at multiple institutions during the past three academic years. Once the Department of Education indicates students with an unusual enrollment history, the Central Piedmont Financial Aid Office must review the educational history of those students to determine their federal financial aid eligibility.

Review Process

- The Central Piedmont Financial Aid Office notifies students who are selected by the Department of Education for unusual enrollment.
- Those students must complete the Unusual Enrollment History Appeal Form and provide a copy of all transcripts from previous institutions attended during the past three years. They must have received academic credit at any school, while receiving the Federal Pell Grant, during those relevant academic years.
- The Financial Aid Office verifies whether academic credit was obtained at each school during the relevant years. Students are notified when the requirement is satisfied. If students failed to receive academic credit at any institution during the relevant award years, their federal and state financial is denied and they are notified.

Steps to Appeal Denial of Financial Aid

Students can appeal the financial aid denial by submitting the following three items.

- a. An Unusual Enrollment History (UEH) Appeal Form
- b. A letter explaining the unusual enrollment history
- c. Documentation supporting the explanation provided in the appeal letter

All appeal forms and documentation are reviewed by the Financial Aid Office, before notifying students of the decision.

Processing Appeals

Appeal forms and documentation must be submitted to the Central Piedmont Financial Aid Office at least 15 working days before the semester start date. Appeals after that date are processed by the end of the semester. Students are informed of their appeal decision through their Central Piedmont student email account. Students also may find their Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) status and the determination of their appeal on their MyCollege account. Classes are not held by financial aid for students submitting an appeal.

Regaining Federal Student Aid Eligibility

Students denied federal student aid based on unusual enrollment history may have their financial aid eligibility reinstated once they have completed one academic term consisting of six credit hours of curriculum coursework in an eligible program of study. Students also must meet the standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) for financial aid eligibility. Please note, in this situation, students may not drop or withdraw (officially or unofficially) from any course after the term begins. At the end of the completed semester, they must submit a letter requesting reinstatement with their final grade report.

Students who regain eligibility, either by appeal or by completing a successful term, will receive financial aid beginning in the payment period for which approval is given. For example, students denied in the fall term who complete a minimum of six credit hours, do not withdraw from any courses, maintain a 2.0 GPA and successfully meet stipulations at the end of the fall term, are eligible for federal aid in the spring term.