



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- We've made some changes; we will now be publishing our newsletter biannually instead of quarterly to better serve our students during peak processing times.
- Due to the holidays, the Financial Aid Office will not be disbursing funds on the following dates: 11/24 , 12/22 & 12/29.
- There are important changes to the FAFSA for 2017-2018, please see below for more details.

CONTACT US:

Financial Aid Office: 805-679-6197

Financial_Aid@pacifica.edu

SUGGESTIONS?

If you have any suggestions for our newsletter, please send them to: wcopca@pacifica.edu

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

FAFSA CHANGES:

Two major changes to the FAFSA will take effect for the 2017-2018 school year. (The 2017-2018 school year runs from July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018):

1. The FAFSA will be available earlier (October 1 of the previous year instead of January 1 of the upcoming school year).
2. The FAFSA will collect income information from an earlier tax year.



2016-2017 AID

Remember, you must complete your FAFSA each academic year in order to qualify for aid. If you've received the Graduate PLUS Loan in previous years, it is not automatically renewed, and it needs to be re-submitted each year just like the FAFSA. Note: This loan is not required.

DISBURSEMENT DEADLINE:

If you are anticipating a disbursement **and have recently completed documents/steps**, please notify our office by Tuesday at 3:00 p.m. PST to ensure you are included for disbursement on Thursday.

ATTENDANCE:

If you are going to miss a session, please email: wcopca@pacifica.edu to inform us of your absence to prevent any delay in your disbursement.

TIPS

Navigating the FAFSA

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

Top Mistakes Students Make on the FAFSA

Misconceptions

- **Not using the correct site**

The official FAFSA website is www.fafsa.gov. You never have to pay to complete the FAFSA. If you're asked for credit card information, you're not on the official government site.

- **Not getting a FSA ID ahead of time**

The key to making the FAFSA simple is being prepared. The process will go much smoother if you register for an FSA ID and gather everything you need to complete the FAFSA before you start the application.

- **Waiting to fill out the FAFSA until after taxes are completed**

The FAFSA is available well before most people have filed their taxes. You can use the estimator tool and later update your FAFSA once you've filed.

- **Not using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool**

Save yourself time and confusion by using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to transfer your tax information directly from the IRS website.

- **Not signing the FAFSA**

So many students answer every single question that is asked, but fail to actually sign the FAFSA with their FSA ID and submit it.

- **I make too much money, so I won't qualify for any aid.**

FACT: Graduate students are awarded an Unsubsidized Loan in the amount of \$20,500 per award year through the FAFSA, as long as they have not yet reached or are close to their aggregate loan limit of \$138,500. The Unsubsidized Loan is an entitlement program so it is not based off of your income or credit. Most students will qualify as long as they are in good standing with the Department of Education (no defaulted student loans or have reached the aggregate limit).

- **I should wait until I'm accepted to a college before I fill out the FAFSA.**

FACT: You can add multiple schools on your FAFSA, which gives the Financial Aid Office time to receive and review your FAFSA to prevent delays once you are accepted.

- **I should call "the FAFSA people" (Federal Student Aid) to find out how much financial aid I'm getting and when.**

FACT: No, you'll have to contact your school. Federal Student Aid does not award or disburse your aid, so they won't be able to tell you what you'll be awarded or when you'll get it. You will have to contact the Financial Aid Office to find out the status of your aid and when you should expect it.



WARNING

With tax season upon us, the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration is warning taxpayers to be on high alert for scammers who impersonate IRS employees in aggressive phone calls that demand money and then make serious threats of jail time. Don't believe them; **just hang up!**

The IRS states that it would never call demanding immediate payment, and would never request payment with prepaid cash cards or ask for credit card information. The agency said it also would not threaten to arrest you. Please remember, the IRS always sends a letter and does not call you.

For more information, visit [Tax Scams and Consumer Alerts on IRS.gov](https://www.treasury.gov/tigta/contact_report_scam.shtml). To report a scam, contact https://www.treasury.gov/tigta/contact_report_scam.shtml or call 800-366-4484.



Helpful Information

Disclosures:

Per the Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended by the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008, all postsecondary institutions participating in the federal student aid programs are required to disclose certain consumer information annually. This information is listed on our site:

<http://www.pacifica.edu/about-pacifica/financial-aid-consumer-disclosures>.

Disbursement Schedule:

Financial aid is generally disbursed on the first Thursday after your first session each quarter after attendance has been confirmed. (Make sure you're marked present on all attendance rosters to prevent delay in your disbursement!).

You can check to see if your aid disbursed on-time at <http://finaid.my.pacifica.edu>. If so, allow up to 14 days from the disbursement date each quarter to receive excess funds (refund). If it does not show disbursed, contact the Financial Aid Office.

Did You Know?

Pacifica is approved to administer these other resources:

- Chapter 31 Vocational Rehabilitation Benefits through the Veteran's Administration.
- Chapter 33 Post-9/11 GI Bill Tuition Assistance & Yellow Ribbon Scholarship through the Veteran's Administration.
- Chapter 35 Survivor's & Dependents' Educational Assistance through the Veteran's Administration.
- State Vocational Rehabilitation Benefits
- Tribal Benefits

Contact wcopca@pacifica.edu for more information.

Important Definitions

DISBURSEMENT: The disbursement dates given to you by the Financial Aid Office are the estimated dates that the school receives the funds from the Department of Education.

REFUND: When, after careful review of a student's account and eligibility, a credit balance is refunded to the student. If a credit balance refund is due the student, the refund is made to the student within 14 days of the date the credit balance occurs, as required by The U.S. Department of Education regulations.

Direct Unsubsidized Loans: are loans made to eligible undergraduate, graduate, and professional students, but in this case, the student does not have to demonstrate financial need to be eligible for the loan.

Direct Graduate PLUS Loans: are loans made to graduate or professional students and to help pay for education expenses not covered by other financial aid.

Dissertation Reminder Regarding Deferment

Dissertation Students:

Keep in mind while you are approaching the completion of your dissertation that your enrollment status is updated to a type of leave of absence and is effective the date of your final draft approval or if your final draft is approved between quarters the effective date is the last day of the preceding quarter. While this leave of absence provides you time to complete your corrections and defense you are no longer eligible for in-school deferment. Please contact your servicer for other deferment/forbearance options.



Troubleshooting Tips for the finaid.my.pacifica.edu Site

- Student ID is your Social Security Number (without dashes)
- Date of birth format (m/d/yyyy include slashes; do not include zero for months/days 1-9)
- Zip code must match Pacifica and FAFSA

LOG IN

Student ID:

Password:

[Forgot your PIN?](#)
[First Time User](#)