
From: Crouchet, Cristeen
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2024 4:02 PM
To: All Faculty & Staff
Subject: Federal Student Aid Updates & Impacts

Campus Community,

As many of you may have heard, there is a new version of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The [FAFSA Simplification Act](#) represents a significant overhaul of the processes and systems used to award federal student aid, starting with the 2024–25 award year, which begins on July 1, 2024. There have been significant problems with the nationwide rollout, affecting every institution across the USA.

❖ What we know

- The U.S. Department of Education (Dept of Ed), which typically releases application data to institutions in October, has delayed it by over 5 months to mid-March. Delays are nationwide, and impact every institution that awards financial aid and grants.
- Until ctclink configurations are completed at the State level, no community or technical college in Washington can process applications or provide students aid information.
- There is a known list of issues with simplified FAFSA, [which can be found here](#).
- While [more Pell Grants will be issued](#), some middle-income students will no longer be eligible.

❖ What we don't know

- **Timing, timing, timing.** The delays have snowballed. We don't know exact dates or timelines for when the Dept of Ed will release data, how long ctclink reconfigurations and guidance will take, nor how long it will take for Student Aid & Scholarships staff to package awards once the information is here.
- We know that WASFA applications will be impacted but we don't yet know how or by how much.

❖ What you can do

- **EVERYONE:** Avoid rumors and find official updates at www.cptc.edu/fafsa-updates. That info page houses all updates related to the rollout and will be updated as information is sent to us.
- **FACULTY & STAFF:** 1) Keep encouraging students to submit their FAFSA form. 2) Support Student Aid & Scholarships staff with words and deeds. They are very concerned about the impact of these compounding changes on students, and are doing everything in their power to prepare for the data release when it eventually comes.
- **UPDATED OFFICE HOURS:** To provide the necessary time and space to prepare for the impacts these changes will have on our processes, the Student Aid & Scholarships office hours will be as follows **effective February 19-March 31:**
 - **Mon-Tues, Open, 7:30 am - 4:30 pm**
 - **Wednesday, Limited Service (general questions at 1 open window) 7:30 am-7:00 pm**
 - **Thursday, Limited Service (general questions at 1 open window) 7:30 am-4:30 pm**
 - **Friday, CLOSED**
 - **Open office hours for April – June will be posted late March.**

We absolutely understand the stress this causes for students, staff, and faculty. We are actively working to determine our options to mitigate the delays, even slightly, as well as to identify alternate funding sources for students.

I want to assure you that leaders from the federal, state, and college levels are working every angle to fix this urgent situation, and that we share your concerns about what the inability to provide financial aid awards means. Please do not hesitate to bring your questions and concerns to me directly.

Thank you,

Cristeen

Cristeen Crouchet

Dean, Student Success

Student Rights & Responsibilities Officer



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[Student Success Satisfaction Survey](#)