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BANNER FINANCIAL AID USER'S UPDATE
SCT BANNER 5.6 RELEASE
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SCT Banner 5.6 Release

In the Banner 5.6 release, SCT has delivered Phase I of modifications to the Pell calculation process. These modifications have resolved problems calculating Pell where the award period is greater than 100% - such as the fall, spring, summer award period.

ROAINST - Institutional Financial Aid Options Form

A new field has been added to ROAINST. This indicator, "New Pell Calculation" must be checked to activate the new Pell calculation process. We have checked this indicator for all colleges and ask you to leave it checked for proper Pell calculation and processing.

RTVAPRD - Aid Period Validation Form

Previously on RTVAPRD, the field "Full Year Pct" was used for aid period budgeting and for determining Pell amounts. As you may recall, Banner allowed only one aid period to be 100% and all other aid periods with two or more terms were entered as 99.99%. This, at times, caused incorrect Pell distributions - especially when a student's aid period was changed to a Fall/Spring / Summer.

To correct this, a new field - "Pell Full Year Pct" - has been added to RTVAPRD. During the installation of 5.6, a script was run which converted all 99.99% aid periods to 100% and entered these into the Pell Full Year Pct field. This field allows for multiple aid periods of 100% but does not allow any percent to exceed 100%. This field is used solely for Pell processing.

RFRDEFA - Default Award & Disbursement Schedule Rules Form

On RFRDEFA, a new field has been added to determine term allocations for Pell funds. This new field, "Pell Award Percent" is used solely for Pell processing. (The "Award Percent" field on RFRDEFA will still determine all non-Pell fund term allocations.) Unlike the "Award Percent" fields that must always total exactly 100%, the "Pell Award Percent" fields must total at least 100% but may exceed 100%. **Please be sure to review these percentages for all of your aid periods.**

Term Award Lock

In this 5.6 release, SCT has added a "Term Lk" field on the Fund Awards By Term window of ROARMAN & RPAAWRD and also to the Awards By Term window of RPAAPMT. Within this field, you can set the lock to always pay the locked amount by setting "Term Lk" to "Y". This gives you the ability to lock funds for a specific term and still have other terms disburse appropriately. You may use this for both Pell and non-Pell funds.

Future SCT Banner Pell Processing Enhancements

In a future release, SCT plans to give additional functionality for Pell processing. There are several enhancements scheduled for this future release. A significant change will allow Banner to adjust a Pell term award based upon actual Pell amounts already paid in prior terms.

For example: A student is enrolled in Fall/Spring and has remaining Pell eligibility. The student is enrolled in a summer course and is placed in a FASPSU aid period. Once these additional enhancements are in place, Banner will be able to calculate the student's remaining eligibility for the summer term. This should eliminate the need for any manual calculations

We are hopeful that SCT will deliver this to us in time for Summer 03 processing. In the meantime, please do not begin any summer awarding. Also, we ask that you please notify us if you notice any oddities in your day-to-day working with Pell.