



# **Institutional & Program Eligibility Regulations for Participation in the Federal Student Financial Aid Programs**

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**Council of Continuing Education Deans & Directors**

# Introductions

- **Tom Bradham**
- **Director of Financial Aid Services**
- **System Office**
- **860.244.7615**
- **[tbradham@commnet.edu](mailto:tbradham@commnet.edu)**
- **Joe McAuliffe**
- **IT Project Manager for Financial Aid**
- **System Data Center**
- **860.244.7689**
- **[jmcauliffe@commnet.edu](mailto:jmcauliffe@commnet.edu)**

**[www.commnet.edu/finaid](http://www.commnet.edu/finaid)**

# Agenda

- **Scope of the Student Financial Aid Program in the Connecticut Community College System**
- **Higher Education Act of 1965 (as amended) – Title IV, Parts A & B**
- **Institutional, Program, and Student Eligibility**
- **Limitations of the SCT Banner System**
- **Questions**

# Program Scope

**For the current 2002-2003 Award Year:**

- **14,800+ financial aid recipients**
- **\$35.4+ million in program expenditures**
- **89% of awards are grants**
- **64% of awards from federal sources, including \$18.7+ million in Pell Grants**
- **45% of students enrolled half-time or more receive financial aid**
- **Increasing use of web-based systems, including ONLINE, our self-service student information system**

# Higher Education Act



- **HEA of 1965 (amended 1998)**
- **Reauthorization for 2003 currently underway**
- **Title IV authorizes most federal student financial aid programs**
- **Regulations set in U.S. Code; Chapter 34 for Education**

# Institutional Eligibility

**To be eligible, all institutions must adhere to the following requirements:**

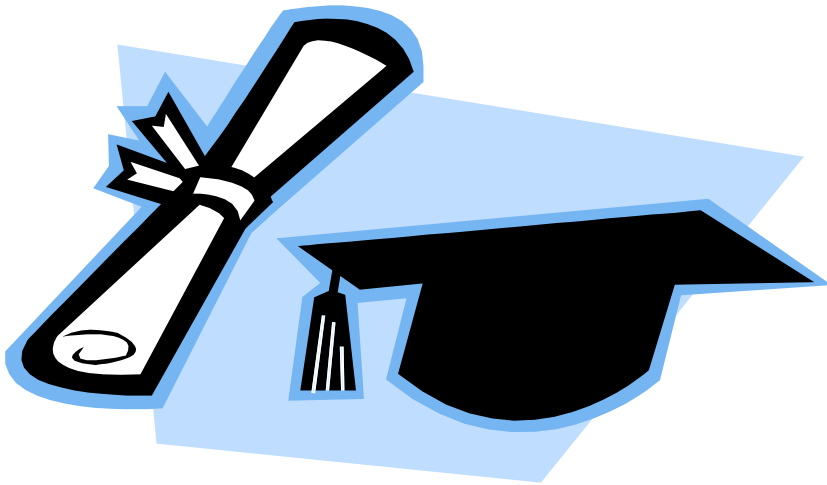
- **Legal Authorization**
- **Accreditation**
- **Admission of “regular students”**

**(34 CFR 600.4, 600.5, 600.6)**

# Institutional Eligibility

**Connecticut Community Colleges qualify as “institutions of higher education”.....**

- **A public educational institution located in a state;**
- **Offers the Associates degree....**
- **Offers at least a one-year certificate training program....**



# Program Eligibility

**An institution's eligibility does not extend to all its programs.....**

- **Institution must ensure program is eligible**
- **Program must be authorized by appropriate state agency**
- **Program must be recognized by accrediting agency**
- **Nondegree programs must be specifically named on the approval notice (Eligibility and Certification Approval Report) with the Department of Education**
- **Institution must ensure that a program is eligible before awarding FSA funds to students in that program**

# Program Eligibility

## 3 Types of nondegree eligible programs.....

- All of these programs must have a specified number of weeks of instruction AND must provide training that prepares a student for gainful employment in a **recognized occupation\***
- A **recognized occupation\*** is listed in the “occupational division” of the most recent edition of the *Dictionary of Occupational Titles*

# Program Eligibility

- 1. Program must be offered during a minimum of 15 weeks of instruction AND must provide at least 600 clock hours or 16 semester hours of undergraduate instruction;**
- 2. Program must be offered during a minimum of 10 weeks of instruction AND provide at least 300 clock hours or 8 semester hours of instruction AND the program must be a graduate or professional program or admit as regular students only persons who have an associates degree;**

# Program Eligibility

- 3. Short-term Program. Qualifies for the FFELP (loan) programs only. Must provide at least 300 but less than 600 clock hours of instruction offered during a minimum of 10 weeks of instruction. Also the program must:**
  - Have verified completion & placement rates of at least 70%**
  - Not be more than 50% longer than the minimum training program required by any state or federal agency;**
  - Have been in existence for at least 1 year**

# Program Eligibility

## **Other issues include:**

- **Academic Year definition requirements**
- **Standard term, Non-standard term, Non-term requirements**
- **Payment Period rules**
- **Clock Hour/Credit Hour conversions**
- **Additional eligibility requirements for special programs (correspondence, study abroad, ESL)**

# Student Eligibility



- **Be a citizen or eligible noncitizen of the United States;**
- **Have a high school diploma or a General Education Development (GED) certificate;**
- **Enroll in an eligible program as a regular student seeking a degree or certificate;**
- **Register for Selective Service;**
- **Have a result of Eligible or Partially Eligible on the Drug Conviction question;**
- **To receive a Pell Grant a student must NOT have a bachelor's degree**

# SCT Banner System

- **Multiple Institution Functionality (MIF)**
- **Seamless integration between Student/FinAid/Finance modules**
- **Automated links with 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendor systems**
- **Student self-service focus**
- **Term-based administrative system**
- **Credit-based relative to financial aid processes**
- **No mechanism for clock hour programs; customization would be required**



# Questions

