



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

May 2003 (Modified December 2004)

Council of Continuing Education Deans & Directors

Introductions

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

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 2003-2004 Award Year:

- **16,538 financial aid recipients**
- **\$40.3 million in program expenditures**
- **88% of awards are grants/scholarships**
- **64% of awards from federal sources, including \$20.7 million in Pell Grants**
- **48% of students enrolled half-time or more receive financial aid**
- **85% of students apply for financial aid over the Internet**

Higher Education Act



- **HEA of 1965 (amended 1998)**
- **Reauthorization 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:

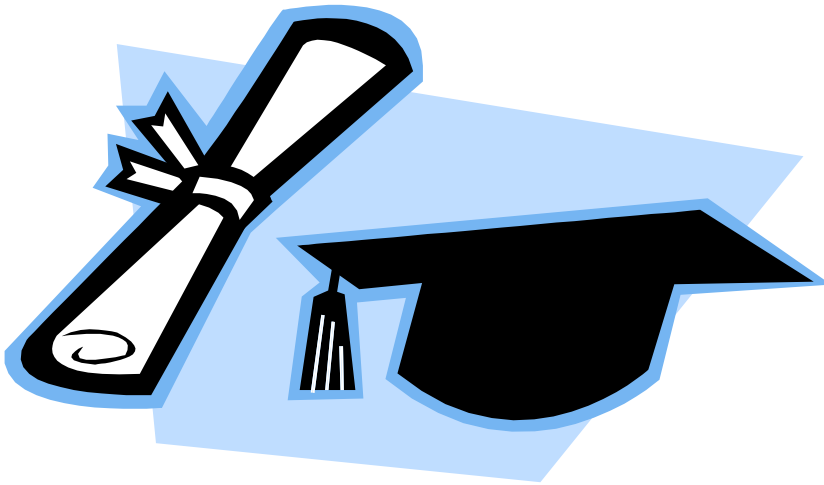
- **Legal Authorization**
- **Accreditation**
- **Admission of “regular students”**

(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 3rd 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**

SUNGARD®

SCT • HIGHER EDUCATION

Questions

