

# BANNER FINANCIAL AID USER'S UPDATE

## JULY 2001



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### 4.10 Release Highlights

We completed the installation of the 4.10 Release to the PRODUCTION database on June 15, 2001.

- The 4.10 Release provides us with updates to SCT Banner RFMS forms and processes for the new 2001-02 aid year. The upgrade addresses new required file format changes, as well as new processing requirements and changes from the current year. Accordingly, we have revised the RFMS documentation we make available to the colleges. In a separate attachment, we will be sending you a new

document entitled *Using the SCT Banner Financial Aid System to Manage the Pell Grant Recipient Financial Management System (RFMS)*. We strongly suggest you read through this revised document to familiarize yourself with its contents before beginning your 2001-02 processing. Also be sure to share it with your staff responsible for the RFMS activity. As is our usual practice, we will be posting this document to the web site for future reference.

- Release 4.10 also introduces new functionality in the Banner Financial Aid System relative to the provision of the 1998 Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act that requires that Chapter 30 Veterans Benefits and AmeriCorps benefits be excluded as resources when determining eligibility for subsidized Stafford Loans. The maximum exclusion is equal to the amount of the subsidized loan, but the budget can never be exceeded. Although these benefits must be excluded in the determination of a subsidized loan, they must still be used as resources when determining other federal need-based aid, such as SEOG, FWS, and Perkins Loans. If they so choose, colleges may award other federal aid first utilizing 100% of the above benefits as resources. If other federal aid is awarded, the order of the awards will affect the amount that can be considered as a subsidized loan. The purpose of this enhanced functionality in SCT Banner is to allow the user to identify the amounts to be used for students who qualify, and override normal packaging edits to treat subsidized Stafford funds correctly, while not impacting other funds limits. It is also to ensure that the loan process will calculate resources correctly for these students. You will note changes to the Award Form (RPAAWRD), the Package Maintenance Form (RPAAPMT), the Financial Aid Record Maintenance Form (ROARMAN) and the Electronic Loan Application Form (RPAELAP), as well as others. In particular, you will note the addition of a new field, "Sub Loan Excl Amt" to the RORSTAT Packaging Group Block. Your cursor must be in the "Packaging Group Information" block to input data. In addition, the "Override Indicator" has been modified by adding a new Override Value of "L" which will override sub loan edits only. To assist colleges in identifying students who may be receiving VA benefits and thus eligible for the exclusion, SCT has delivered a new report, RPRVABN – Students Reporting VA Benefits on FAFSA. We have included more

information on this new report in the Reports section of this *User's Update*. Since the issue of Veteran's benefits and financial aid is always complex, you may want to contact Dave Welsh, our resident VA expert, if you have questions about what exactly Chapter 30 benefits are and the applicability of this new exclusion.

- As you know, the maximum Pell Grant award for the 2001-02 award year is \$3,750. This sizeable increase in the Pell Grant award has resulted in some colleges (notably the California Community Colleges) being subject to the "tuition sensitivity" provision of the Higher Education Amendments of 1998 [Section 401 (b) (3)]. Institutions subject to this provision must use the Alternate Pell Schedules to determine Pell Grant awards. Accordingly, SCT Banner has delivered these schedules, in addition to the Regular Pell Grant Payment Schedules, in the 4.10 Release. So you may notice new fields such as "Alt Pell Sch Used" and "Alt Pell Low Cost" on different Banner forms such as ROAINST, ROAPELL, RTVCOMP, RPAAWRD, RPAAPMT, and ROARMAN. Rest assured these fields are NOT essential to our processing, and you should NOT populate them in any way. The Connecticut Community Colleges are NOT subject to the tuition sensitivity provision of the HEA Amendments, and we may continue to use the Regular Pell Grant Payment Schedules as before.
- SCT Banner now displays packaging overrides on all the Award forms. An override pop-up window was added to all 3 forms: RPAAWRD, RPAAPMT, and ROARMAN.

### New & Revised Reports

- RWRX001 – Consolidated Packaging Report. As you know, we have used this report for System Office purposes to gather data on financial aid applicants, packaged awards, disbursements, and unmet need, among other items. While this information was always gathered in a consolidated report, some of you expressed interest in being able to generate this information for your own college, upon demand. Accordingly, we have "unbundled" the consolidated packaging report and made it available to all colleges. While you can now run the report just

for your college, the report will still print on 10 pages. Here's a hint: print to the DATABASE until we fix the printing issue.

The Consolidated Packaging Report (RWRX001) gives a variety of data on your financial aid applicants for the specified parameter aid year.

RWRX001 reports the total number of financial aid records in your database for the selected aid year and the number of these records that have been packaged. This report gives aggregate cost of attendance, aggregate direct cost and aggregate gross need of your applicants. RWRX001 also reports the total aid offered, total aid paid to date and provides data on the unmet need of your applicants.

To run this report, enter the following required parameters:

Parameter	Value
01 Aid Year	enter aid year
02 Direct Costs Amount	enter the dollar amount of your direct costs for the aid year (\$2,888 for 0102 SO purposes)

This report will run in landscape format.

- RPRVABN – (VA Benefits on FAFSA Report). RBRVABN is a report that identifies those students who have indicated on their FAFSAs that they will be receiving VA benefits during the parameter aid year. Since students do not specify on their FAFSAs the type of VA benefits they will be receiving, you must determine if these benefits are VA Chapter 30 and therefore to be excluded as resources when determining eligibility for Subsidized Stafford Loans.

This report lists Name and Banner I D. VA Amt & No. of Mos. (as reported on the student's FAFSA) are also listed. Also on this report is a Sub Loan Excl Amt column. If you have already entered VA

benefits in the Sub Loan Excl Amt field on the student's Banner record, the exclusion dollar amount will be shown here.

To run RPRVABN, enter the following parameters:

	Parameter	Value
01	Aid Year Code	aid year
02	Sort Option	N (name) I (Banner ID)
03 - 06		N/A

This report will run in landscape format.

- RORCALC - Calculated Values Report. Modifications to this standard report allow you to request a report that only shows overawards, as well as only overrides. New parameters were added to Parameter 2 (Print Report). Parameters now include:

F - Print Students with FM Overawards Only  
O - Print Students with Overrides Only

As always, all financial aid report descriptions and examples can be found on our web page.

### FinAid Web Updates

- We have modified the public "Financial Aid Information & Applications" page at [ONLINE.comment.edu](http://ONLINE.comment.edu) to display a link to the U.S. Department of Education's PIN registration site. As ED moves to increased electronic processing and electronic signatures, we thought it beneficial to encourage our students to apply for PINs. We have also made some subtle text changes to other links on the page - all

done in support of increased access to electronic processing of financial aid applications. Check it out at <http://www.online.commnet.edu/ctcfinaid.htm>.

- We are pleased to announce that Capital Community College has agreed to be our pilot college as we develop the FinAid Web process for the 2002-03 Aid Year. (Yea, Margie!) As you know, we want to migrate from our current Web inquiry model to a more progressive, transaction-based Web environment where students will be able to interact on a real-time basis with the SCT Banner database. We'll be working closely with Margaret Wolf and her staff as we build a demonstration model for the community colleges.

### Fall 2000 Term Disbursement Activity

As we wrote to you recently, we ended the nightly automatic disbursement activity associated with the Fall 2000 semester. We were forced to do this because of the large number of evening processes that run against the database, and the lack of enough hours in the day (literally). We continue to run nightly (Monday-Friday) automated disbursement activity for the Spring 2001 and Fall 2001 terms. You may, of course, manually disburse financial aid to students (using ROAI MMP) for the other active financial aid terms, i.e. Fall 2000 and Summer 2001.

Further, if you anticipate significant disbursement activity for either the Fall 2000 or Summer 2001 terms and would like to schedule an automated disbursement with the Team, please contact us at the regular User Support Services' telephone numbers.

We welcome your recommendations as to when to end the Spring 2001 semester automated disbursement activity. Let's discuss this item at the next Financial Aid Council meeting.

## RFMS Disbursement Record Hint

From our experience with RFMS disbursement record troubleshooting, we have determined that you may, at times, want to prevent a disbursement record from being sent from the SCT Banner System to RFMS. If so, you may want to use the 'lock indicator" field on the Pell Disbursement/Acknowledgement Form, READI xx. By checking this indicator you prevent the record from being resubmitted to RFMS.

## Student Employment Module Training

Here's a reminder that we will conduct training on the new Student Employment module the week of August 6, 2001. Six colleges (Manchester, Northwestern, Norwalk, Housatonic, Middlesex, and Capital) will attend Monday & Tuesday, August 6 & 7. And six colleges (Naugatuck, Gateway, Tunxis, Three Rivers, Quinebaug, and Asnuntuck) will attend Wednesday & Thursday, August 8 & 9. We will hold all sessions at the Banner Training Lab (Room 201) at the Flatbush Campus of Capital Community College. We will begin promptly at 9:30 am each day; please plan on a full day. Due to space and equipment constraints, we can only accommodate 2 staff from each college. It is essential that your office be represented at these training sessions so you will be properly prepared to implement the student employment functions for the 2001-02 Award Year.

## Transition to "Financial Aid Services"

By now we hope you have had a chance to read the transition document e-mailed to you on July 1, 2001 indicating our move to the System Office. (It's also available on the web site under "announcements"). As part of this migration, over the next few months we'll be changing our name and emphasis from that of the Banner Financial Aid Team to the more comprehensive Financial Aid Services. Accordingly, you'll begin to notice some subtle changes in our communications to you, as well as a re-designed web site. We ask for your patience as we bring about these changes.

## Special *User's Update* Issues

As you know, we plan to issue instructions and reports to you to facilitate your completion of both the CAPCS and FI SAP reports later this summer. Given the complexity of both processes, we plan to issue the material in special *User's Update* editions. Watch for the CAPCS issue soon!

To prepare for both reporting requirements, you might want to take the time now to begin reconciling your federal (and state, if any) work-study program(s) for the 2000-01 Award Year. Your determination of student work-study award amounts and earned amounts now will save you valuable time later.

While it is unfortunate that we have to employ such a "work around" this year, we can all look forward to the end of the 2001-02 Award Year. With the implementation of the Student Employment Module, we won't have to resort to such a "work around" strategy.