

Three Financial Aid Rules

(which may impact your Academic Plan)

Rule 1: Federal Loan Limits- Credential only students can borrow up to \$12,500 per academic year in Federal Stafford Loans. Masters students can borrow up to \$20,500 in Federal Stafford Loan and up to the cost of attendance with Graduate PLUS Loan per academic year.

Academic Impacts:

- If you are advised to take a 30 unit credential only program instead of an equivalent Masters/Cred. combo program, you may not be able to cover the tuition in full with Federal Financial Aid. You will have to pay partial tuition expenses out of pocket or apply for a private/alternative loan.
- If you change from a Masters program to a Credential only program mid-year, you may have already used up your allotted Federal Stafford Loan eligibility for the year. Therefore, your only option will be a private/alternative loan.

Rule 2: Unit Load Requirement and Eligible Courses- Students must take courses (1) within a program they are enrolled in and (2) half-time unit load required for the program to be eligible for Federal Financial Aid.

Half Time = Credential Only: 6 units per term (Fall, Spring & Summer)
 Masters /Combo: 5 units for Fall and Spring terms, 3 units for Summer

Academic Impacts:

- If you are enrolled in multiple programs, you will receive financial aid based on the program you are enrolled in at least half-time.
- If you are enrolled in a Masters/Combo program and Credential only program, you must be enrolled in at least half-time in one of the programs unless the course is applicable to both programs.
- Change of programs can mean different unit load requirements and financial aid eligibility.
- If you are starting in Fall 2 or Spring 2, or are a credential only student in summer, you should be aware of half-time unit load requirements.
- You cannot receive financial aid for taking courses for a program you are not currently enrolled in.
- You cannot take courses outside of your program to meet half-time unit requirements; you must be in courses within your program.

Rule 3: 150 % Max Time Frame for Credential only programs- Students can receive financial aid up to 150% of the units required for the program.

Academic Impacts:

- For a 12 units clear credential program, 150% is 18 units. Therefore you can receive financial aid up to 18 units for this program. It allows you to repeat 6 units if you fail or withdrawal or if you want to retake for a better grade.
- If you have completed the SPED 11 program with 12 units and then need an Autism Authorization, you will need to enroll in the SPED 29 program to regain financial aid eligibility.

FINANCIAL AID TIPS

- Focus on one program at a time when registering for courses if enrolled in multiple programs.
- Enroll in the correct courses for the academic program that you are currently enrolled.
- Understand loan limits and half-time unit load for Credential Only vs. Masters Programs.
- Contact your Student Account Counselor when planning a program change or deciding to enroll in an additional program.