



Tech Financial Aid News

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Satisfactory Academic Progress Calculators Available

Confused about how to determine what GPA or percentage is needed to maintain eligibility for federal financial aid? The Tech financial aid site has a calculator available to assist in determining the level of academic performance needed to achieve the required cumulative GPA or percent completion on the Tech Financial Aid web site.

<http://www.latech.edu/finaid/maineligappolicycalculators.shtml>

E-mail addresses are important!

Financial Aid applicants

Address Changed Since Filing of 2008-2009 FAFSA?

If you have changed the addresses; mail and email, you used on your 2008-2009 FAFSA, you should revisit the federal Central Processing Service site to which you submitted your FAFSA and update your addresses. New applications can be submitted now using 2008 income information. We will be able to receive the electronic information sometime in February. The recent Congressional acts have delayed the availability of the updated software to facilitate processing. These applications will be effective for the Fall 2009 quarter and 2009-2010 award year.

Welcome to the 2009-2010 School Year at Louisiana Tech

This is going to be very interesting and active year for financial aid at Tech. Over the past year there has been a veritable alphabet soup of Congressional bills affecting student financial aid. The CCRAA (PL 110-84), ECASLA (PL 110-217) and the largest-ever HEA Reauthorization bill; HEOA (PL 110-315). Each of these is in varying stages of implementation.

How do the changes affect you? In some cases the awarding of funds has been simplified and more students made eligible for grants; in others it has become more complex. There are some additional programs that may benefit a number of students. We will address each of these changes and programs in the coming months as the Department of Education provides implementing guidance to the school.

2008-2009 Changes in Stafford Loan Awards

The Higher Education Reconciliation ACT (HERA) changed the loan award levels for students in the 2007-2008 award year. Effective in Fall 2007, freshman level subsidized loan limits rose to \$3500 per year. The sophomore level rose to \$4500. Junior and senior level limits remained at \$5500 each year in subsidized loans.

In June of 2008, Congress passed ECASLA which provides that all students are now eligible for a \$2,000 annual Unsubsidized Stafford loan increase. This applies to dependent and independent students. More information can be found on our web site. Students were contacted regarding this last-minute change and adjustments were made to packages for the 2008-2009 year.

should keep both e-mail and postal addresses up-to-date throughout the year. Check your email accounts often. We send all notifications through email; either home before you have a Tech email and to the Tech address after you are assigned one. Failure to receive a time-sensitive message or letter could jeopardize receipt of essential funds. Update your addresses by visiting our web site at www.latech.edu/finaid. Click on the MY AID tab and log in to make needed corrections.

Feedback Requested!

How are we doing? This is the first in the 2009-2010 series of newsletters. If you have read any of the previous issues, please take time to email us with your constructive comments regarding what you liked or would like to see addressed in the newsletter. Send to Techaid@ltfa.latech.edu

Previous copies are located at our web site under financial aid news.

Watch for another issue!

2009-2010 FAFSA will Contain Noteworthy Changes

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will have several changes. The first you will notice is that there is no longer a Worksheet A, B or C. They have been incorporated into the financial data. Many other changes will be in Step Three on Page 7 of the paper form. Several questions have been reworded to clarify the needed response. Several others have been added; #56, #58, #59 and #60. Care should be taken when answering "yes" to any of these new questions. If a "yes" is entered, be prepared to furnish proof of the status you are claiming to the Financial Aid Office.

Security Software May be Blocking Your Communications From the Financial Aid Office.

Students expecting communication from the Tech Financial Aid office should include techaid@ltfa.latech.edu as a "friend" or other appropriate receptive category in your security software. We recently sent a large number of paper letters to persons that had provided email addresses but had never responded to our notices. If you suspect that you should have received information from our office, visit our web site at www.latech.edu/finaid and check under the MY AID tab for missing information.

Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) Delays Start of Processing for 2009-2010

Updating of software processing, both internal and external, and the financial aid portion of the web site are in process as the HEOA is reviewed and interpreted. Various elements will be implemented as soon as possible.