

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF DENVER

Title: Financial Aid – Graduate or Professional Student

Guideline #: FA – 1

Approved: November 28, 2011
July 13, 2015
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References: Federal Student Aid Handbook
Application and Verification Guide, Chapter 2– Filling Out
the FAFSA

Approved By: Dr. Everette J. Freeman, President

1. PURPOSE

To establish a process by which to determine if student is a graduate or professional student or made an error when completing one of the self-reported questions related to their prior degrees.

2. APPLICABILITY

To students who wish to be eligible for Title IV Federal Grant eligibility.

3. DEFINITION

- a. FAFSA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid.
- b. Graduate or professional student – A student who is not receiving aid as an undergraduate for the same period of

enrollment; is enrolled in a program above the bachelor's level or one leading to a professional degree; and has completed the equivalent of at least three years of full-time study, either before entrance into the program or as part of it.

4. POLICY

Students who have obtained an undergraduate degree (bachelor's degree or higher) are ineligible for Federal or State Grant Aid. This is a self-reported field on the FAFSA. The self-reported fields are:

First bachelor's degree (28) – The student answers if s/he will have a first bachelor's degree before the beginning of the current award year.

Graduate or professional study (48) – The FAFSA asks if the student will be working on a master's, doctorate, or graduate certificate program at the beginning of the school year. A student who is a graduate or professional student is independent for purposes of Title IV aid. Graduate and professional students aren't eligible for Pell grants, so a student who incorrectly answers "Yes" to this question must submit a correction before he can get a Pell grant, even if he is independent for another reason. Students should fill out the FAFSA based on their expected grade level at the beginning of the award year. If a dependent student completes her undergraduate program during the year and begins graduate school, she can update the answer to the dependency question so that the CPS can reprocess her application, or the aid administrator at the graduate school can recalculate her EFC and use it to package her graduate aid.

5. GUIDELINES

- a. If a student has reported they are in a graduate/professional program on the third page of RNANAxX and they have not indicated that they have a prior bachelor's degree, a requirement will be placed on RRAAREQ for GRAD. This requirement will prevent disbursement and memoing of Federal and State Grant to the student.
- b. If a student submits a written statement that they are not in a graduate/professional program and that they do not have a prior bachelor's degree, the Financial Aid Office will update the RNANAxX fields and correct the FAFSA with ED.
- c. The RRAAREQ request for GRAD will be satisfied and a CORR request will be placed on RRAAREQ. The student will regain grant eligibility once the corrected record is received.