

# Important SCE Financial Aid Facts

- 1. Enrollment Status:** The Office of Financial Aid defines any SCE student as full-time in a given semester if they are enrolled & billed for 12 credits (i.e. 4 courses). Three-quarter time is defined at 9 credits, half-time is 6 credits and less than half-time is 3 credits or less.
- 2. Academic Progress:** There are *two* minimum academic requirements that SCE students must maintain every semester in order to keep their federal financial assistance. First: your cumulative grade point average must be above a 2.0 each semester. Second: you must be getting passing grades in two-thirds of the courses you are attempting each semester. For example, if you attempt 15 semester credits and earn passing grades in 12 of them, then your completion rate is 80%. Good standing in this category is anything above 67%.
- 3. Award Notification:** The names of SCE students (in a qualifying degree/certificate program who have yet to be awarded) are distributed to financial aid counselors every Monday for review. If no further documentation/clarification is needed then an email (usually sent every Thursday) will be sent (to your PC issued email) instructing you to log into your CyberFriar account to review.
- 4. Communication:** Check your PC issued email account *every day*. It is the official form of communication from the College and will be the first place a staff member will try to connect with you on any issues that arise.
- 5. Paying Your Bill:** The College will never send you a bill. Payment for classes is required at the time of registration and you can use a credit card, check, ACH (electronic check) or your financial aid. If you indicate that you are using financial aid as payment, and your eligibility changes, you are responsible for the balance and payment is expected to be made in full immediately.
- 6. Credits Matter:** The number of credits enrolled/billed for is used to determine the amounts and types of aid available to you each semester. The *Message Section* in your CyberFriar Account will tell you what number of credits were used to determine your financial aid. If are changing your credits, let the Office of Financial Aid know since adjustments may be necessary.
- 7. Unusual Enrollment:** Upon completing your FAFSA it is possible your application will be flagged for unusual enrollment. This means that the U.S. Department of Education has noticed you have attended and received financial aid at three different institutions within three years. The Office of Financial Aid may ask you for copies of transcripts or details about your attendance in prior academic years before awarding you any financial aid.
- 8. Money For Books:** You can request \$150 per course per semester be put on your PC ID card if you have a pending credit on your student account. This is called a book advance.
- 9. Monitor your loans:** If you participate with the Direct Loan Program your loan status will change from *in-school status* to a *repayment status* 6 months after the last semester you were registered for. Therefore, it is possible you may need to make some loan payments during your break from school. Once you are back at least half-time (minimum 6 credits) in your degree or certification program, the Registrar's Office can complete an in-school deferment form. Curious about your overall loan balance? Go here: <https://studentaid.gov/>.
- 10. Breaks from School:** You will remain an "active student" for one full year after the last semester you were registered for. While you are considered in good standing with the College during this time, you may not be in good standing with the U.S. Department of Education and your prior loan debt.
- 11. Taking Classes At Another College:** It is possible to receive financial aid for courses you need to take at another College. If the course(s) is a requirement for your degree/certificate program and is acceptable to transfer back to PC, then complete a consortium agreement. You will have to pay the other College upfront and out of pocket and get reimbursed with your financial aid credit at PC.