

DID YOU KNOW

the following financial aid facts?

The financial aid office freezes your enrollment.

Financial aid is based on your enrollment at the end of the semester's add/drop period (for summer this normally means the very first add/drop period). Therefore, your financial aid is not reduced if you withdraw after that date (as long as you attended the course that is being withdrawn and you do not withdraw from **all** your courses.) Likewise, your financial aid is not increased if you add a course after that date.

Sometimes you can't receive financial aid for a repeated course.

If you have already passed the course you want to repeat, you are not eligible for financial aid for that repeat. If you have failed or withdrawn from the course you want to repeat, you may receive financial aid one time for the repeat.

Sometimes you can't receive financial aid for a developmental course.

The financial aid office is only allowed to pay you up to 30 credits of remedial coursework (not counting ESL courses.)

You must maintain specific academic standards to be eligible for financial aid.

To be eligible for financial aid you must make "Satisfactory Academic Progress" (SAP) as defined by federal guidelines and HCC policy. The SAP policy requires you to maintain a certain GPA and also successfully complete two-thirds of the coursework attempted.

There is a limit for how long you can receive financial aid.

There is a financial aid policy that requires you to complete your program of study within 150% of the time normally required to complete the degree or certificate. For example, a 60 credit degree program must be completed within 90 credits of attempted coursework. Also, if you are a first time Pell Grant recipient in 2008-09 or later, you are limited to 18 full-time semesters of Pell Grant awards.

You can lose some of your financial aid if you withdraw from ALL courses.

You do not earn 100% of your financial aid until the 60% point of the semester. If you withdraw from school before the 60% point, you will lose a portion of your financial aid.

You could lose 50% of your financial aid if you drop out of school.

If you stop attending classes and do not officially withdraw from the school, the financial aid office is required to treat you as an unofficial withdrawal and reduce your financial aid by 50%.

You cannot receive financial aid for a course you never attend.

If an instructor reports that you never attended a course, your aid will be canceled for that course.

Your academic program may not be eligible for financial aid.

All degree programs are eligible for financial aid but certificate programs require special approval from the Federal Department of Education. If you are a certificate student, you should check the HCC website www.hcc.edu under "Programs" to see if your program of study is approved.

You could lose out on some financial aid if you fail to submit some paperwork.

When your financial aid file is incomplete, the financial aid office is unable to process your awards.

You must meet a state residency requirement to be eligible for Massachusetts state financial aid.

Massachusetts state financial aid programs require you (and your parents if you are a dependent student) to be a Massachusetts resident for at least one year prior to the beginning of the school year.

Financial aid cannot pay for your books or health insurance without your permission.

You must sign an authorization form in the financial aid office for books and an authorization form in the student account services office for health insurance before financial aid can be used to pay for either.

You do not have to be a full-time student to receive financial aid.

Most financial programs require you to be at least half-time (6 credits or more) but in some cases you can receive a Pell Grant for just one course

Financial aid is more than grant (“free money”) assistance.

When you apply for financial aid you apply for a combination of grants, loans and work-study

If you have a bachelor’s degree you are not eligible for financial aid grants.

Once you have earned a bachelor’s degree, you are no longer eligible for grant aid even if you did not receive grant aid to earn the bachelor’s degree and even if the bachelor’s degree (or equivalent) is from another country.

You can receive a student loan even if you do not demonstrate “need” on the FAFSA

You are eligible for an unsubsidized Federal student loan regardless of your need calculation from the FAFSA, assuming you meet all other eligibility criteria.

You may receive more financial aid than the cost of your tuition, fees and books.

Financial aid can be used to help cover educationally related out-of-pocket expenses such as room and board, transportation, lunches and daycare. If you receive financial aid in excess of tuition, fees and books, you will receive a check from the college after the financial aid funds have been paid.

The financial aid office estimates financial aid awards for students who are not yet processed.

If you have a **complete** financial aid file but the financial aid office has not had a chance to process your award, the financial aid office will estimate your award amount and process a “Temporary Payment Extension” (TPE) to inform the Student Accounts office of the amount of your expected financial aid.

HCC has a financial aid priority deadline.

The HCC financial aid priority deadline is May 1. Since some funding is limited, it is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. If you apply after May 1 you will be considered for this financial aid only if the funds become available.

You must apply for financial aid each year.

You must complete the “Free Application for Federal Student Aid” (FAFSA) each year. The FAFSA can be completed on-line at www.fafsa.ed.gov beginning January 1 of each year.