

PARENTS' BULLETIN

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS

JANUARY 2010

On-Campus Resources Promote Student Success

- **Academic Resource Center** -
<http://www.loyno.edu/arc/>
- **Career Development Center** -
<http://www.loyno.edu/careerservices/>
- **Disability Services** -
<http://www.loyno.edu/arc/disability-services>
- **First Year Experience**
<http://www.loyno.edu/fye/>
- **Free Tutoring Services**
<http://www.loyno.edu/fye/resources/academic.html#freetutoring>
- **University Counseling Center**
<http://www.loyno.edu/counselingservices/>
- **University Ministry**
<http://www.loyno.edu/universityministry/>
- **Writing Across the Curriculum**
<http://www.loyno.edu/wac/>

Renewing Aid for 2010-2011

All students must annually complete the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid ("FAFSA")** in order to participate in federal and state aid programs. Currently enrolled students should complete and submit the **2010-2011 FAFSA** application to the federal processor by **May 1, 2010**.

We would like to encourage all students who are comfortable working on the Internet to complete their applications online at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>.

Our school code for the FAFSA is 002016.

Students also must meet set academic requirements in order to renew their institutional, state, and federal financial aid.

Guidelines for the major programs for undergraduate students are published at:

<http://www.loyno.edu/financialaid/undergraduate-satisfactory-academic-progress-policy> (federal aid)

<http://www.loyno.edu/financialaid/merit-scholarships-renewal>
(institutional scholarships and grants)

<http://www.loyno.edu/financialaid/renewal-requirements-tops-scholarships> (Louisiana TOPS scholarships)

Verification Requirements

Please remember to keep a copy of your federal tax returns, W-2 forms and all supporting schedules. Approximately 30% of all federal aid applications are randomly picked for "verification" each year by the Department of Education.

If your application is picked for verification, you will need to submit complete copies of your federal returns to the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid before we can finalize your aid award for the 2010-2011 year. For more information, go to <http://www.loyno.edu/financialaid/verification-requirements-federal-financial-aid-programs>

American Opportunity Tax Credit

Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009, textbook and other course material expenses incurred in 2009 and 2010 that are not covered by scholarship or grant aid may be counted towards the newly created tax credit called the **American Opportunity Tax Credit** on that year's tax return.

According to the IRS, the new credit temporarily replaces and expands the previous Hope Credit for tax years 2009 and 2010, making the American Opportunity Tax Credit available to a broader range of taxpayers, including many with higher incomes **and those who owe no tax.**

Many of those eligible will qualify for the maximum annual credit of **\$2,500** per student, which is more than \$700 higher than the old Hope Credit, and, **for the first time**, will provide a partial refund of up to **\$1,000.**

For more information, go to <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=213044,00.html>

New Disclosure Requirements for Private Education Loans

The [Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008](#) mandated a number of significant changes to provide a significant amount of additional information to families who choose to utilize private educational loans. The regulations change the disclosure requirements for the [Truth In Lending Act \("TILA"\)](#) for **private education loans** made expressly for post-secondary education expenses.

These regulations will go into effect on **February 14, 2010.** The regulations require lenders to produce the following disclosures to borrowers :

- *Application and Solicitation Disclosure* - the lender must provide a **general range** of rates and fees so that borrowers can make informed decisions when choosing a private loan lender.
 - The "ASD" provides general information about interest rates, fees, default or late payment costs and repayment terms. In addition, it includes an example of the total cost of a loan based on the maximum interest rate offered by a lender, a defined loan amount and calculations for each payment option.
 - The ASD must also include eligibility requirements for the loan AND information on alternatives to private education loans. *The ASD is intended to be a tool for the applicant to use in comparing loan offers*
- *Loan Approval Disclosure* -When an applicant is conditionally approved for a loan, the lender must send this disclosure with borrower-specific rates and fees.
- *Final Disclosure* - This is sent to the borrower after the loan terms are accepted and the school has certified the students eligibility for the loan. The Final Disclosure gives the borrower a three business day right to cancel period.

In addition to these disclosures, a lender must obtain a signed and completed *Borrower Self-Certification* form from the borrower. This form is being created by the Department of Education. The self certification form will include information about the availability of federal student loans, the student's cost of attendance, estimated amount of financial assistance, and the difference between the student's cost of attendance and estimated financial aid.

Senate Set to Begin Debate on the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009

The United States House of Representatives passed the **Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (HR 3221)** by a **vote of 253-171** on September 17, 2009. According to supporters, the bill ensures that higher education is more affordable at no additional expense to taxpayers. The aim of the bill is to ensure that more students will go to college, and that they will graduate with less debt. An additional goal is to strengthen federal student loan programs. The legislation will generate almost \$100 billion in savings over the next 10 years that will be used to increase Pell Grant scholarships, keep interest rates on federal loans affordable, and safeguard federal student loan access for families.

The United States Senate is scheduled to begin debate on this important legislation in February. We would like to encourage the community to learn more about the issues under discussion. We will be posting information, as we receive it, at <http://www.loyno.edu/financialaid/relevant-federal-legislation> .

To learn more about the potential impact of this legislation on the aid application process for the 2010-2011 academic year, go to <http://www.loyno.edu/financialaid/projected-changes-2010-2011-academic-year> .

The major change that we anticipate is that all federal Stafford, PLUS , and Graduate PLUS Loans will be processed through the Federal Direct Student Loan Program, rather than through private lenders. We are in the process of updating our computer systems to prepare for this change.

This legislative mandates this change with the goal of redirecting the subsidies currently given by the government to private lenders to other aid programs.

Read more about the legislation on the web site of the House Education and Labor Committee at <http://edlabor.house.gov/newsroom/education/higher-education/>.

Tax Credits and the 1098 -T Statement

The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 allows a tax credit to be claimed for out-of-pocket payments made to Loyola University New Orleans for the tax year for tuition and certain fees. The IRS requires that we provide the 1098-T statement to you for your use in completing IRS Form 8863. A detailed listing of charges, payments, grants and scholarships is available at our website through your LORA account at <http://www.loyno.edu/lora/>.

We recommend that you refer to that information to assist in determining the amount of credit which may be claimed on your behalf. This information must not be construed as tax advice. The amounts and calculations used to determine the credit are the decision of the taxpayer after consideration of relevant IRS regulations, Form 8863, and, perhaps, the advice of a tax consultant.

For more information, go to <http://www.loyno.edu/studentfinance/taxcreditsand1098t.html>

Important Dates: 2009-2010 Academic Year

- **January 18, 2010** - Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Holiday
- **January 22, 2010** - Last Day for 100% Refund

- **February 12, 2010** - Last Day for 50% Refund
- **February 15-16, 2010** - Mardi Gras Holidays
- **February 19, 2010** - Fall 2009 Incomplete Grades Changed to F

- **March 5, 2010** - Midnight Deadline for Posting Mid-term Grades
- **March 15, 2010** - Early Registration Advising Begins
- **March 22, 2010** - Summer / Fall 2010 Registration begins

- **March 29 – April 5, 2010** - Easter Holidays for Undergraduate Students

- **April 28, 2010** - Last day of classes for Undergraduate Students
- **April 30 – May 6, 2010** - Day Division Final Examinations

- **May 7, 2010** - University Baccalaureate Mass
- **May 8, 2010** - Graduation
- **May 10, 2010** - Midnight Deadline for posting grades



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www.loyno.edu/financialaid/

Office /Program

Web Address

Student Finance

<http://www.loyno.edu/studentfinance/>

Bursar

<http://www.loyno.edu/bursar/>

Student Records Office

<http://www.loyno.edu/records/>

TOPS Scholarships

<http://www.osfa.state.la.us/>

SALLIE MAE (loan info)

<http://www.salliemae.com>

Loyola Calendars

<http://www.loyno.edu/calendar/>

Loyola Emergency

<http://www.loyno.edu/emergency>

City of New Orleans –Emergency

<http://www.cityofno.com/>