

Financial Aid Changes for 2012-2013

The new financial aid award year will bring many changes that you need to be aware of. Below are a few highlights to keep in mind as you begin to prepare for 2012-2013. For further details please see the “2012-13 Thunder Storm-Student Guide to Financial Aid” Please share this information with your parents!

First



Trine Financial Aid is going green: <https://mytrinefa.trine.edu>

Everything you need for Financial Aid will be on this site. Since this is our first year going green, we will send you reminder postcards to assist you in the transition. We will also be sending a lot of information to your Trine email, so check it frequently. You will no longer receive letters in the mail from us.

1. All missing documents will be on this site. You will be able to see what we already have and what is still missing.
2. Visit this site to view your electronic award letter (once we notify you it is ready). Each individual award will need to be accepted or declined online. You will no longer receive a paper copy to sign and return to the office.

Second



The IRS Data Retrieval Process (Available after Feb. 1st)

The IRS Retrieval Match Process is a service you may use when completing your FAFSA that allows you to automatically populate your FAFSA form with your federal 1040 tax information. Using this automated process makes filing the FAFSA much easier and helps avoid delays and minimizes your chances of being selected for verification.

Ideally you should file your tax return before you submit the FAFSA for 2012-2013. If you file your tax return electronically, your information should be available on the IRS website for retrieval to your FAFSA within two weeks of the filing date. If you file your tax return by mail, your information should be available on the IRS website within eight weeks of the filing date.

It is still important for you to meet the **March 1st deadline** for submission, so we recommend estimating your information as closely as possible if you are not able to file your tax return in time. As soon as you have filed your return and given the IRS time to process it, review your FAFSA again and use the Data Retrieval Process through the IRS to update your FAFSA with the accurate information.



Verification Changes

Verification is a process in which the federal government requires schools to confirm the data on the FAFSA. If you are chosen for verification you will be required to submit certain documents to the Financial Aid Office. Those items will appear under the “Documents” tab on the MyTrineFA website.

New verification worksheets will be used this year as compared to last. Information required is very similar, but it will have a different look and feel.

Tax Transcripts must be submitted in place of the federal 1040/A/EZ this year. The Department of Education no longer considers tax forms 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ to be valid verification documentation.

Child support paid is now included as an item to be verified. If you or a parent reported payment of child support on the FAFSA, there is a section on the verification worksheet to include: who the person responsible for paying the support is, the amount paid, the names of the children, and the name of the person to whom the support was paid.

SNAP (food stamps) is also a new item to be verified. If you report that your family received SNAP (food stamps) during 2010 or 2011, you will be required to provide a copy of the letter you received from the issuing agency indicating the effective dates and the names of the recipients.



Direct Loan Changes

Up-Front Interest Rebate Terminated and Subsidized Interest Rate Changed.

The Department of Education will no longer offer repayment incentives at the time of disbursement for Direct Loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2012. As a result, the up-front interest rebate (used to be .5% for Direct Subsidized and Direct Unsubsidized and 1.5% for Direct Plus) that was provided to Direct Loan borrowers at the time of their loan disbursements will no longer be offered. Starting with the 2012-2013 academic year the origination fee deducted by the Department of Education is 1% for Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans and 4% for Plus Loans. With the termination of the up-front interest rebate, the amount disbursed on your student account will be slightly less than previous years.

Also this year the Direct Stafford Subsidized Loan interest will be 6.8%, the same as the Unsubsidized Loan.

The law continues to authorize the Department of Education to offer interest rate reductions to Direct Loan borrowers who agree to have payments automatically electronically debited from a bank account. We encourage you to take advantage of this benefit when repaying your Direct Loans.