

FINANCIAL AID

"NEED-TO-KNOW" FACT SHEET

Hi SUSCC students!!! We are so excited to kick off another academic year and even more excited to have you all be a part of our Bison Family. We understand this has been a challenging couple of months but one thing is for certain, SUSCC is here to help! The financial aid staff has compiled a list of "Need-To-Know" facts to ensure you are well on your way to a successful semester.

EMAIL

Be sure to check your student email on a daily basis. This is the main form of communication we use to contact you with all the latest information regarding your student account and exciting college updates

Suggestion: link your email to your cell phone. This will ensure you stay on top of all the exciting things to come at SUSCC

MYSUSCC PORTAL

check your MYSUSCC student portal on a regular basis. Everything thing you need to know is within your portal. If you have items needed under the "unsatisfied requirement" section of your portal, return the needed items to us ASAP. We cannot offer any federal financial aid award without the needed documents.

NEW AUTHORIZATIONS

While in your portal, also check to see if you have accepted the Terms/Conditions and the Indirect Title IV Charges authorizations. This would be located under the unsatisfied requirements under the "Financial Aid" tab. *Why is this so important???* In order for any refund amount to be released, you must read and ACCEPT the terms of receiving federal financial aid. In order to use your federal financial aid to pay for textbooks, supplies, parking permit, etc. you must AUTHORIZE the Indirect Title IV Charges. If you do not authorize, you will not have access to your available balance to purchase these items. (If you previously declined the Indirect Title IV Charges Authorization, it's ok. Email our Business Office to request for it to be changed at jjwilliams@suscc.edu)

NEW

MAILING ADDRESS/ REFUND CHECKS

Be sure to check the address listed on your school record. This can be confirmed through your MYSUSCC portal. It is very important that we have the correct mailing address on file. (You can make updates directly through the portal)

- Financial Aid refunds are sent through postal mail. We will not have a direct deposit option for the 20/21 academic year.
- Refund checks will begin to be processed immediately following the "Disbursement Date". This is different from previous years. *(Check out the Important Financial Aid Date flyer for more details)*

You see why updating your mailing address is so important?

STUDENT LOANS

Do you plan to use Direct Student Loan funds to cover your tuition, fees, textbooks, etc.? If so, check your portal to see if you have a student loan OFFER. If so, you must ACCEPT the offer within your portal. You cannot utilize loan funds until you accept the offer and complete the required steps of Entrance Counseling and signing the Master Promissory Note (complete the requirements online at www.studentaid.gov)

- *No worries* if you do not want to accept the full amount offered, reduce the amount to fit your needs right there within your portal. If you made a mistake and denied your loan offers, complete the "Loan Change Form" found on our website and return to us at financialaid@suscc.edu
- <https://www.suscc.edu/skins/userfiles/files/LOAN%20CHANGE%20FORM.pdf>



THANK YOU FOR BEING A BISON!

SCHOLARSHIPS

Were you awarded an institutional scholarship? That include Presidential, Ambassador, Technical, Performing Arts, Athletics, Partial Assistance, etc. Here are a few things to keep in mind about your scholarship:

- You are **REQUIRED** to be a full-time student (at least 12 credit hours) for Fall and Spring semesters. (Summer term is optional)
- Make sure you meet the GPA requirement for your scholarship. If you fail to do so, you can run the risk of your scholarship not being renewed for the second academic year.
- It is very important that you review the guidelines provided on a regular basis.

IMPORTANT DATES

Check out the "Important Financial Aid Dates" flyer. We release this each semester in order for you to be aware of bookstore charge dates, attendance verification dates, financial aid disbursement dates, and refund dates.

SAP

Do you know what Standards of Academic (SAP) is??

This is where we check your academic status to ensure your GPA, PACE, and other important guidelines are in place and meet the guidelines of the U. S. Dept. of Education regulations to receive federal financial aid such as PELL Grants, Direct Student Loans, etc. Did you also know starting Fall 2020, we will be checking your SAP at the end of each semester? That's right, at the end of each semester of enrollment, we will check to see if you are staying within minimum guidelines to receive aid. If you are or are not, you will receive one of the following classifications within your portal under the "eligibility" tab:

- **Pass:** Your status was reviewed and you are eligible to receive aid for the following term.
- **Warning:** Your status was reviewed and you are not meeting the minimum SAP guidelines. You will be put on a "Warning" status and allowed to keep aid for one term. Your continued eligibility will be determined after the next term check point.
- **Failure:** Your status was reviewed after the check point of a "Warning" classification and it was found that you do not qualify for financial aid for the following term.

View online at <https://www.suscc.edu/about-suscc/standards-of-academic-progress.cms>

ATTENDANCE

Attending class is important, RIGHT??? Well to ensure you are indeed attending, we will communicate with your instructors during the first two weeks of class. Be sure to submit your assignments on time and report to class as required. If we are notified that you are not, you may run the risk of being dropped from the course and your financial aid will be adjusted. <<< **You really do not want this to happen. REPORT TO CLASS AND DO YOUR ASSIGNMENTS ON TIME.**

NEW

USING FINANCIAL AID TO PAY

If utilizing some form of financial aid, be sure to confirm your "Authorized Financial Aid Balance" is enough to cover your "Current Amount Due" listed in your mysuscc portal. If so, you are all clear and your tuition will automatically update to paid once initiated by our office. This is different from previous years due to the new computer system. If you do not have enough funds, be sure to pay the outstanding balance prior to the first day of class, August. 17th.

Steps To View Your Authorized Amount of Financial Aid:

Login to your MYSUSCC portal > Click Student Tab > Click Student Acct. > Click Acct. Detail for Term > Select Fall 2020 > Your authorized amount and current amount due show here. Also check the "Memo Section" for third party financial aid resources.

OFFICE INFO

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Financial Aid offices on both the Wadley and Opelika campuses have implemented some new polices:

- Offices will be closed for the Fall semester to the public
- We will continue to serve students through:
 - **Phone:** 334-745-6437 or 256-395-2211 (option #3)
 - **Email:** financialaid@suscc.edu
 - **Video call appointments:** <https://go.oncehub.com/FinancialAidAppointments>
 - **Appointment only on campus:** Must email financialaid@suscc.edu to schedule an appointment
 - **Just need to drop off documents???** Leave the items in our secure drop boxes located outside of the Administration Building and located inside the building by our office entrance.

We are here to make sure you have access to all the resources needed to ensure you have a successful semester. If we can be of any assistance, do not hesitate to contact us at financialaid@suscc.edu. **We wish you all a great Fall semester and GO BISON!!!**