Welcome to the fall 2013 edition of the Brenau University Financial Aid Newsletter: Money Matters. This issue will include topics that we hope will be useful to you as we come to the end of fall semester 2013 and approach the beginning of a new calendar year. January 1, 2014 will bring a new financial aid season during which you begin the application process all over again for the 2014-15 academic year. As always, we welcome your suggestions for topics, timing and format of Money Matters, as well as your questions about anything in this newsletter.

Happy Thanksgiving to You and Your Family!

The Financial Aid Staff

Speaking of the Financial Aid Staff: Who Are They and Where Are They Located?

The Financial Aid Office has undergone some recent staffing changes. First, TJ Johnston was promoted to Financial Aid Counselor for Adult & Graduate Studies (new adult cohort programs). Then Jenny Crouch, formerly employed by Brenau Admissions at our Augusta regional campus, replaced TJ as the Financial Aid Office Manager/Records Coordinator. Congratulations to TJ and welcome aboard to Jenny!

Financial Aid Staff Listing

Federal Student Loan Changes: What Are the Current Interest Rates and Loan Origination Fees?

Effective for Federal Direct Loans disbursed to students after July 1, 2013, the following interest rates apply:

- Undergraduate Students
  - Subsidized Direct Loans: 3.86%
  - Unsubsidized Direct Loans: 3.86%

- Graduate Students
  - Unsubsidized Direct Loans: 5.41%
  - Grad PLUS Loans: 6.41%

- Parents of Dependent Students
  - Parent PLUS Loans: 6.41%

Effective for any new Federal Direct Loans first disbursed on or after December 1, 2013, the following increased loan origination fees apply:

- Subsidized and Unsubsidized Direct Loans (grad and undergrad): 1.072%
- Parent/Grad PLUS Loans: 4.288%

Students whose fall semester loans were disbursed prior to December 1, 2013 will retain the previous origination fee structure (1.051% and 4.204%), even for disbursements already scheduled for spring semester 2013. However, students who do not accept their fall loans or fail to complete a Master Promissory Note or Loan Entrance Counseling in time to have their funds disbursed prior to December 1, 2013, will have the higher origination fees applied to all

The Financial Aid Office calculates a cost of attendance budget for each program. The budget includes projected amounts for tuition and fees, plus allowances for books, room and board, transportation, and personal/incidental expenses. In projecting tuition costs, we make the assumption that a student will enroll in the average or typical number of semester hours generally taken by the majority of students in that program (unless we are notified otherwise by the student). And for evening and online programs, the cost of attendance budget also assumes a student will enroll in both short sessions within the larger semester. (For our non-term cohort programs, undergraduate students must enroll in 12 hours and graduate students must have 9 hours in each enrollment period.)

The regulations that govern federal student aid (including all student loan programs) will not allow us to include costs and allowances associated with a period of time during which a student has no enrollment hours. For instance, if your course credit load is less than the amount of credit hours we based your financial aid award on and/or you are enrolled only for one short session within a semester, your financial aid award could be subject to a reduction. In order to view the enrollment
New Office Location

In May 2013, the Financial Aid Office was relocated to 620 Academy Street on the Gainesville campus. We are happy to share a suite of offices with the Registrar staff, and hope that students who visit our offices will find the new location and set-up very convenient. Feel free to drop by and say hello even if you don’t have pressing business with our staff.

Aid Eligibility: How Do Enrollment Hours and Course Timing Affect Your Financial Aid Dollars?

A student’s financial aid award is based in part on the costs associated with his/her program of study for the enrollment period for which financial aid eligibility is being determined.

If you have not completed a Master Promissory Note and/or Loan Entrance Counseling, you should do that online at www.studentloans.gov immediately. These documents are required to receive the first disbursement of a Federal Direct Loan. Comprehensive information on federal student loans is also available at that site.

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Talbots Women’s Scholarship: Apply Now!

If you are a female undergraduate student who earned her high school diploma or GED on or before September 2004, you may want to apply for the 2014 Talbots Women’s Scholarship Program. Talbots Charitable Foundation will be awarding one $30,000 scholarship and 30 $5,000 scholarships. The application deadline is Monday, January 20, 2014. For more information, please visit: https://www.scholarshipamerica.org/talbotswomen

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