Several key changes have been made to the Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy for UNI students. One important change to note is that SAP will now be evaluated on a yearly basis, following each spring semester. Prior summer, fall, and spring semesters will all be taken into consideration.

The following three standards must be met by students to maintain eligibility for financial aid:

1) **Minimum GPA**: Undergraduate and 2nd BA students must maintain a minimum 2.0 UNI GPA for coursework taken at UNI. Graduate students must maintain a minimum 3.0 UNI GPA.

2) **Pace of Progression**: Students must complete 67% of all coursework attempted at UNI. Attempted hours are based on enrollment at the end of the first two weeks of class during a semester. Only grades of A, B, C, D, X, Cr, or P are counted as meeting the required hours. Failed classes, withdrawn classes, and incomplete grades do not count as completed credit hours and will negatively affect the SAP calculation.

   Example: A student has attempted 114 credits at UNI. Out of the 114 credits attempted, he successfully completed a total of 87 credits (76% of the coursework attempted), thus meeting this standard of academic progress.

3) **Maximum Time to Complete a Degree**: Students who have completed all course and hour requirements to earn a degree will no longer qualify for financial aid. Students completing a double major or minor in conjunction with their first degree will no longer qualify for financial aid once the requirements for the initial degree are met.

   Undergraduate students are also required to complete a degree within 12 full-time equivalent semesters (18 three-quarter time semesters or 24 half-time semesters). Second BA and graduate students are required to complete a degree within 6 full-time equivalent semesters (9 three-quarter time semesters or 12 half-time semesters). Transfer credits are counted toward the maximum time frame to complete the degree.

The entire SAP policy, including the student appeal process, can be viewed at [http://www.uni.edu/finaid/academic-progress](http://www.uni.edu/finaid/academic-progress). Please contact Tim Bakula (273-2722 or tim.bakula@uni.edu) with any questions.
UNIversity Scholarship Application (USA) Redesign

Business Process Redesign (BPR) sessions for the USA were held October 13, 25 and November 1, 2011 with more than 25 representatives from each college, Admissions, Honors Program, student body, Information Technology, Foundation, Study Abroad, Dining Services, Student Disability Services and Financial Aid. The following chart highlights the proposed changes, with implementation targeted for July 1, 2013 for the 2014-2015 recruitment cycle.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current</th>
<th>Proposed Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Separate systems for scholarship directory and scholarship application</td>
<td>Single system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application live September 1</td>
<td>Live July 1 for recruitment purposes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarship application is a stand alone</td>
<td>Continuation from the application for admission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student must call offices to correct general info</td>
<td>Online form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students limited to major</td>
<td>May also select special areas of interest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One application for all undergraduates</td>
<td>Application will only provide scholarships based on the type of student (New Freshmen, New Transfer, Current, or Graduate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNI faculty could submit references online</td>
<td>All references (on and off campus) may be submitted online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variety of deadlines</td>
<td>Common deadline of January 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No specific notification date to Financial Aid Office</td>
<td>Notification date of March 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships unlimited</td>
<td>Institutional scholarships leveraged to cover no more than tuition, fees, room, board, and books (2011-2012 equals $15,830 for residents and $24,586 for non-residents)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Five subcommittees are beginning work on the evaluation of the current general and essay questions, creation of a resume template, and discussions of the study abroad and performance based formats. For more information on the committees and this project, feel free to contact Juanita Wright, 273-2386 or Juanita.Wright@uni.edu.

Important Dates

“Live Like A Student” sessions will be offered throughout February and March. Students can register at www.uni.edu/finaid

March 1 - Submit online scholarship rosters

March 22 - Students who withdraw are eligible to retain all financial aid received. Students withdrawing prior to this date must return any unearned aid in a proportion equal to time not in attendance.

April 2012—Financial Literacy Month Events

April 15—USA revisions for 2013-2014 to Juanita Wright
Financial Literacy

The Office of Student Financial Aid introduced the “Live Like a Student” campaign beginning in 2010-11. “Live Like a Student” programming was created to provide students with a broad knowledge base concerning their personal finances and to assist them in making responsible decisions regarding money. The “Live Like a Student” initiative is designed to educate students on the importance of having financial goals, budgeting, living within their means, and understanding how their actions today will affect their financial future.

One of the primary services available to students is a free three-week (6 sessions total), non-credit financial literacy seminar entitled “Live Like a Student” that is offered at a variety of times throughout the year. During 2010-11 over 250 students completed the “Live Like a Student” seminar. In addition, many other students had “Live Like a Student” content made available to them through academic classes, group workshops and one-on-one appointments.

Financial Literacy Month is celebrated throughout April. A variety of financial literacy programming and events are made available to students. Some of the events scheduled during the month of April are:

- Budgeting for College Students
- The Psychology of Money: Why We Spend & What Money Means to Us
- Understanding Employee Benefits for Young Professionals
- Know Before You Owe: Understanding Student Loans

More information about additional programs, dates and times will be available throughout spring semester.

Policy for Random Drawings and Gifts

All monetary awards such as cash, checks, credit, gift cards, gift certificates, scholarships, room and board credit, books, book store vouchers, and computers exceeding the amount of $24.99 must be run through the Office of Student Financial Aid and be included on the student’s financial aid package. Materialistic (objects) prizes may be awarded directly to students. All awards are the responsibility of the student to report for any income tax purposes.
**Changes to Federal Aid for 2012-13**

- Undergraduate Direct Subsidized Loan interest rates will increase to 6.8%. The Direct Subsidized Loan will remain interest free while enrolled in school at least half-time; however, the interest rate will jump from the current level of 3.4% up to 6.8%, effective July 1, 2012.

- Graduate students will no longer be eligible for Direct Subsidized Loans. Stafford loans lent to graduate students beginning with the 2012-13 academic year will no longer be subsidized. While the total annual loan limit that students can borrow will remain unchanged at $20,500, the full amount will be unsubsidized, accruing 6.8% interest while in school.

- Elimination of the origination fee rebate on Stafford Loans and Parent & Grad PLUS loans beginning with the 2012-13 academic year. A 1% origination fee on Direct Loans for student borrowers and a 4% origination fee for PLUS borrowers remain.

**IRS Data Retrieval**

Beginning with the 2012-13 academic year, financial aid offices will no longer be able to accept signed copies of federal tax returns from students and parents for FAFSA verification purposes.

There is an easier, faster way to provide tax information for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). When completing the FAFSA students will be prompted to enter their PIN and link to the IRS website. The retrieval process will display their tax information and allow them to transfer it to their FAFSA.

Our office encourages everyone to retrieve their tax data if the student and their parent(s) have filed their 2011 tax return(s) prior to completing the FAFSA.

- If the student and their parent(s) have not completed their 2011 tax return(s) prior to completing the FAFSA, we recommend, once their taxes have been filed, making a correction to their FAFSA and using the retrieval process at that time.

- If the student files their federal tax return electronically, the data will be available to import into the FAFSA application within approximately 2 weeks of the IRS accepting their return (or their parent(s) if applicable).

- If the student or parent(s) files taxes by paper, it will take eight weeks before their information will be available for the IRS data retrieval process.

Please note that students may still be required to supply other income information as part of the general verification process. Families that do not use the IRS Data Retrieval process may be required to submit an IRS tax transcript directly from the IRS to complete the federal verification process.
Sue Follon Exemplary Service Award

We are very proud that Tim Bakula, associate director, and Denise Parks, Clerk III, are 2012 recipients of the Sue Follon Exemplary Service Award. This award commemorates the former Vice President for Educational and Student Services who served the university from 1985—1998 and modeled the values upon which this award is based: quality, integrity, caring, teamwork, leadership and service.

Congratulations Tim and Denise!

Some Reasons Why Financial Aid Has Not Paid Out

The student:
- Is not enrolled.
- Is enrolled less than half time (full-time enrollment is required for scholarships).
- Is not degree seeking (unclassified or non-degree).
- Has not accepted the financial aid award on MyUNIverse.
- Has not completed loan or TEACH grant entrance counseling.

- Has not completed promissory notes(s) for loan(s).
- Has not completed the Agreement to Serve for TEACH Grant.
- Is suspended from financial aid.
- Did not apply for financial aid.

These are some of the reasons financial aid may not have credited to a student’s university bill. Feel free to recommend that the student contact our office for details on how to resolve.

Staff

Front row (left to right): Joyce Morrow, director; Jackie McAndrew, graduate assistant; Renae Mulder, financial aid specialist; Heather Soesbe, associate director; Deb Bartels, assistant director; Jennifer Bell, financial aid counselor; Tim Bakula, associate director.

Back row (left to right): Juanita Wright, assistant director; Elizabeth Minard, financial aid counselor; April Schmiesing, department secretary; Liz Hoium, graduate assistant; Evie Waack, financial aid counselor; Denise Parks, scholarship clerk; Andrea Kraftka, processing clerk; Tammi Dean, processing clerk.
**Types of Aid Received**

- Loans: 61%
- Employment: 8%
- Grants & Scholarships: 30%
- Work Study: 1%

**Sources of Aid**

- Federal: 72%
- State: 1%
- Institutional: 20%
- Other Sources: 5%

**Student Aid History**

- More than 15,000 students applied for financial aid
- $133.6 million in aid awarded
- 86% of all UNI students receive aid
- Average loan indebtedness upon graduation is $25,523
- 30% of undergraduate students receive Pell grants
- More than 3,941 UNI student employees earned more than $12 million through work study, departmental employment and graduate assistantships
- Work study and departmental student employees worked an average of 10 hours per week, with an average wage of $8.27 per hour, earning an average of $2,090 per year

**Percentage of Students Receiving Aid**

Quick Facts

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The Mission of the Office of Student Financial Aid is to provide access to financial resources in a fair, sensitive and confidential manner; to inform and educate students and families about their financial options; and to continually improve services so students may take full advantage of their educational opportunities. The Office of Student Financial Aid is committed to promoting and maintaining integrity, accuracy and timeliness in compliance with applicable law, regulations and policies that govern federal, state, institutional, and private funds in order to serve the maximum number of UNI students.