

New Stipend Process for Financial Aid Students

Effective 10/13/2008

Financial Aid Students - Existing Student Communication (undergraduate and graduate programs)

Audience: Academic Advisors, Student Services Coordinators, Student Grievance Resolution Coordinators and Financial Services Advisors

- **Former Stipend Process** - Students who were eligible to receive a stipend would be issued the full stipend amount via a physical check within 14 days of funds being disbursed. There were a total of two stipends issued per academic year (1 per disbursement period).
- **New Stipend Process Example (Effective Oct 13, 2008)** – Students who are eligible to receive a stipend will now be issued four stipends per academic year (2 per disbursement period) as pictured in the example below. The total amount of the stipend will not change, however the student should receive 30% of their stipend at 7 weeks and the remaining 70% at 14 weeks.

Example:

Certified Year	Disbursement Period	Stipend 1	Stipend 2	Stipend 3	Stipend 4
(40 Weeks)	(20 Weeks)	week 7 (30%)	week 14 (70%)		
	(20 Weeks)			week 27 (30%)	week 34 (balance)

Percentage represents amount of each disbursement period potential credit balance

Student Authorization to Hold Financial Aid Credit Balances

- Students provide authorization on the Institutional Application as part of SFA Online
- Please transfer students to their Financial Services Advisor if they have questions regarding their authorization or have questions on the 30/70 split of their stipend

Stipend Factors

- **Ashford University’s tuition costs**
 Level 1 Undergrad + Tech fee: \$9078.00
 MBA or MAOM Graduate: \$8820.00
- **Students could be eligible for maximum loan amount**
 Level 1 Undergrad: \$9500.00
 Graduate: \$12,500.00
- **Must Factor in Results from the NSLDS Check**
 Examples include, but are not limited to the following of why students would NOT be eligible to receive the maximum loan amount (examples are not all inclusive of all reasons why a student would not be eligible to receive a stipend)

- Close to Aggregate loan limit
- Overlapping loan period

If a student qualifies for the maximum loan amount as determined by the Financial Services Department, they **MAY** qualify to receive a stipend. **Do NOT promise excess funds to students.**

What Student's are affected

- All student's who received a disbursement on or after October 6th

What this means to you...

For students who are stipend eligible:

Students will no longer be issued the full stipend amount upfront. Moving forward, students will be given their stipend in 4 increments throughout the academic year. The total amount of the stipend for each disbursement period will not change, however the student should receive 30% of their stipend after 7 weeks of successful accumulated continuous enrollment and the remaining 70% at 14 weeks of successful accumulated continuous enrollment. These timelines are dependant on when the disbursement actually posts. Breaks in attendance and unsuccessful course completion will delay a student's stipend.

This benefits the student because the money will be retained on their account to cover educational costs.

Please refer all students to their Financial Services Advisor for further clarification.

Note: LOA's and breaks in schedules (greater than and less than 29 days) will result in a change in the date in which they will receive their stipend check.

Student Notification

The letter displayed below is being sent to Financial Aid students on a weekly basis for 20 weeks based on when their disbursements have been posted on their ledger card:

“Dear *Student Name*,

Ashford University’s stipend process has been updated to provide funding for your coursework throughout the academic year. Effective October 13th, 2008, Ashford University will begin issuing four stipends per academic year. The amount of funding you receive will not change, only the scheduled disbursement of the stipends. This change will allow the financial aid disbursements to better coincide with the timing of anticipated charges for the courses in which you enroll. Thirty percent of the payment period’s stipend will be available for disbursement after the seventh week of successful continuous enrollment, and the remaining seventy percent will be available after the fourteenth week of successful continuous enrollment.

Should you have any questions, or desire further clarification, please contact me at Redacted by HELP or (Redacted by HELP

Sincerely,

FSA Name
Financial Services Advisor
Ashford University

Redacted by HELP

Redacted by HELP
www.ashford.edu”