

Seminole State College

April 3, 2020

Update on Student Loan Payments

Dear all,

I wanted to send a brief update to my previous email (from March 22nd see below) concerning some changes to concessions that the federal government is making on Federal Student Loan payments. The changes are:

- They have now decided that all federally held, student loan payments and loan interest are **automatically** suspended as of March 13th and until September 30th, 2020. This must be done for you by your loan servicer and you do NOT have to contact them. However, I would recommend watching your account closely to ensure both of these things happen. If you have any questions or concerns about your account, contact your servicer!
- Additionally, it has changed that if you are part of the PSLF program, these missed months of payments will still be counted as a “qualifying payment”. Again, I would recommend watching your account closely.
- For more information, you can visit the Student Aid page by clicking [here](#).

Don't forget that you can find your loan information on www.nslds.gov. You should log into the website using the same log in information that you use on your FAFSA. If you have any questions or if there is anything the SSC Financial Aid office can do to help, please do not hesitate to contact us at finaid@sscok.edu or 405-382-9247.

Sincerely,

Melanie Rinehart, MBA CFAA CFEI

Director of Financial Assistance

Previous Email sent out on March 22,2020

Dear Campus Community,

As we all try to stay up-to-date with our ever changing world these days, I wanted to send you some information concerning financial aid. There are a lot of moving parts, ifs, maybes, etc., but just know that all of the SSC Financial Aid staff and I are here to do anything in our power to help you through these difficult times.

1. Emails to your SSC student email is our main method of communication. As things change, all of our communication pieces will be sent to your student email. Please be sure to check it regularly.
2. If you haven't done a FAFSA for this school year, you still have time to do so, but do it quickly. Go to www.studentaid.gov, create an account and complete a FAFSA. Be sure you complete the 2019-2020 FAFSA (using your 2017 income information).
3. No matter when your FAFSA is done, IF your income situation has reduced from what it was in 2017 or your expenses have significantly increased due to something that is not

your fault (ie. job layoff, divorce, wage reduction, something related to COVID, etc), please email me (m.rinehart@sscok.edu) with details of your situation and we will see if you qualify for additional aid.

4. While there has been legislation proposed to create additional federal grants for students, nothing has been passed yet. Know that we are watching all of these proposals very closely and IF one should be approved, we will be prompt in getting you information and details.
5. If you have not received student loans at all this year or you have not received the maximum amount you are eligible for, you can request those funds now to help you pay for educational expenses (so long as you are enrolled in at least 6 credit hours). If you wish to receive student loans or you wish to increase your loan amount, please email us at finaid@sscok.edu. We will look at your file, make sure you are eligible and send you instructions on what you will need to do to get them set up.
6. Our next disbursement was already scheduled for the week of April 13th. We are committed to keeping that disbursement date and will do everything in our power to get the refunds issued as timely as possible. However, please keep in mind that there are many entities (including the federal government) that are involved with these disbursements and delays might be out of our control. Nonetheless, if a delay should occur, we will email all of those affected immediately with the details.
7. Moving to all online classes might not be ideal for some of you and you might think about withdrawing from your classes. Please give online classes a try and reach out to your instructor if you struggle. Withdrawing should be the last resort. We all know that we hate paying for something we won't get, which in this case would be credit hours. But if you are thinking of withdrawing and you have already received financial aid, PLEASE contact us first so that we can do the calculation and make sure you won't have to pay back any of your aid.

DELAYING YOUR STUDENT LOAN PAYMENTS

For those of you who are already making payments on prior student loans... The federal government has passed provisions that allow for you to stop making payments during this time. HOWEVER, YOU HAVE TO CONTACT YOUR LOAN SERVICER to request the forbearance BEFORE you stop making payments. If you just stop without contacting your servicer... your loans will go into default! Here are some additional pointers on this topic:

1. If you don't know who your loan servicer is or how to contact them, you can go to www.studentaid.gov, use your FSA ID (FAFSA log in) to log on and all of their information will be on there.
2. If you are participating in the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program, stopping your payments will stop your progress in that program. Please be sure to talk with your servicer about your best options surrounding the PSLF program.
3. If you have any questions or need any help from us, just email finaid@sscok.edu! You can also find a link to more information on the SSC FinAid facebook page @SSCOKFAS.

While Financial Aid will only have one person physically on campus during office hours for the next couple of weeks, do know that all of us are working online and are committing to providing you with the best possible customer service. Emailing us at finaid@sscok.edu will be the best and quickest way to reach us, but we are also available by phone and can set up a Zoom (face to face online) meeting with you if needed.

Hang in there, keep your chin up and let us know how we can help!