

LONG BEACH CITY COLLEGE
FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

Conflicting Information and Resolution

In addition to reviewing application and data match information provided by the CPS, a school must have an adequate internal system to identify conflicting information—regardless of the source and regardless of whether the student is selected for verification. The school is responsible for reconciling any conflicting information that it has.

All such discrepancies must be resolved before any FSA funds are disbursed to the student. If a discrepancy is discovered after disbursing FSA funds, the information must still be reconciled and appropriate action must be taken.

Discrepant tax data

Financial aid professionals are required to know: whether a person is required to file a tax return, what the correct filing status for a person should be, and that an individual cannot be claimed as an exemption by more than one person.

If a financial aid applicant who has been selected for verification is required to file taxes and did not file, he or she will be required to complete the appropriate tax form before processing of the financial aid application will continue.

If it is discovered that a student and spouse, or a dependent student's married parents, have each filed as "head of household" the individuals will be required to amend their tax returns and file under the correct filing status. It is not acceptable to simply add the two tax returns together.

Publication 17 of the IRS, *Your Federal Income Tax*, is an excellent resource, which may be viewed at www.irs.gov

Cal Grant Eligibility

It is necessary to review financial eligibility for all new Cal Grant recipients who have been selected for verification or who have an ISIR loaded into our system with a transaction number of 2 or greater. The purpose of this review is to ensure that changes to a student's application do not result in the student's information exceeding the Cal Grant income and assets ceilings.

Other discrepant information

FSA funds will not be disbursed until there is resolution on all conflicting information. If the conflict involves a previous award year, it must still be resolved as long as the student is attending Long Beach City College.

The resolution is considered to be complete when a determination has been made as to which information is correct and that determination is noted in the comment screens of the student's electronic file.