



## SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

### What is meant by Special Considerations?

Special Considerations refers to the process of reviewing your financial aid application due to changes in income or expenses for you, your spouse or your parents (if you are dependent).

When you complete the FAFSA, the income and asset information is used to determine how much you and your parents (if dependent) can contribute toward your educational expenses. Special Consideration is appropriate when you or your parents experience special circumstances such as the loss or change of income that was not reported on your original application. Special considerations allows us to use projected or current income information if it is more reflective of your financial situation than the income information you originally reported on your FAFSA. Financial Aid Advisors may be able to adjust your eligibility for aid by using data that takes your new circumstances into consideration. Please note that while Financial Aid Advisors are willing to consider these special circumstances, sufficient documentation is required in order to process your Special Consideration.

### What circumstances can be considered for Special Considerations?

One circumstance that may be considered is a change in income from the one originally reported. This may be the loss of either a nontaxable income benefit (such as child support, social security or the loss of a one-time income benefit) or taxable income such as wages or an IRA pension. Changes in income may be due to loss of job, separation, divorce, disability, retirement, or the death of a spouse or parent. Excessive medical or dental expenses that were paid during the year for which income was reported may also be considered. It is your responsibility to prove that such expenses are not discretionary and to demonstrate that the expenses are outside your family's control due to external circumstances or are vital to your family's survival. Excessive discretionary debts will NOT be considered.

### How do I apply for Special Consideration?

To be considered you must have submitted the FAFSA form and receive a SAR (Student Aid Report). Once you have a SAR you can complete a Request for Special Consideration signed by you, your spouse and your parents (if dependent).

In all cases, these circumstances must be fully documented by providing tax returns, death certificates, court documentation, or letters from appropriate agencies, individuals, or employers. All letters must be on letterhead and include your full name and social security number. After all information is compiled, you will need to set up an appointment with your Financial Aid Advisor.

### Will I get more aid if my request is approved?

If Special Consideration results in increased eligibility for aid, you may receive additional Pell Grant or other funds if available.

### **Where do I get more information?**

For further information, come to the Financial Aid Office in the Student Center 268 on the Redwood – Taylorsville Campus or the Financial Aid Office on the South, Jordan or Sandy Campuses or call (801) 957-4410.

**The information on this fact sheet was accurate at the time of publication but is subject to change without notice.**

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