

**SAIL  
TO  
60**  
NOVEMBER 4, 2019 • ORLANDO, FL

STRENGTHENING  
ALIGNMENT BETWEEN  
**INDUSTRY AND LEARNING**

upliftED



# UPLIFTED: FINANCIAL AID FOR NON- TRADITIONAL STUDENTS

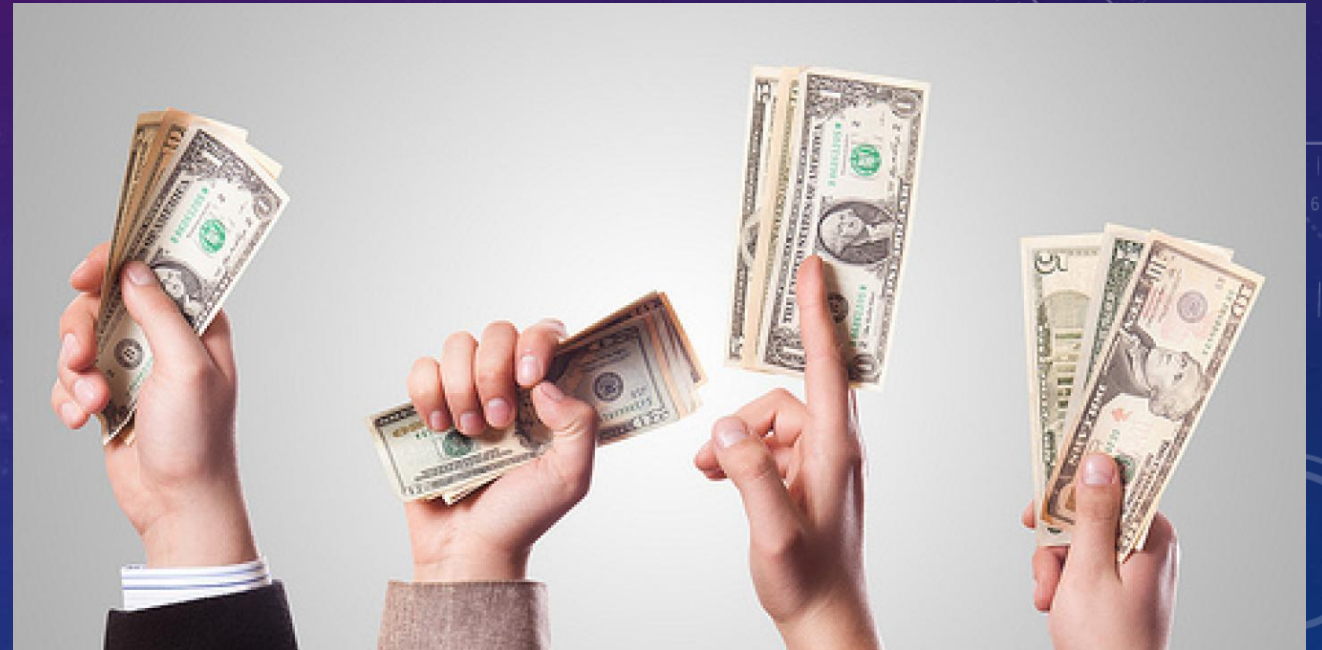
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VALENCIA COLLEGE

# AGENDA

- It All (In)Depends
- SAP – It All Comes Around Again
- Professional Judgments – What Year Is it?
- Credit for credit
  - Dealing with Excess Hours
  - Competency Based Programs
  - Credit for Prior Learning
- HELP! It's an Emergency
  - Emergency Aid Programs

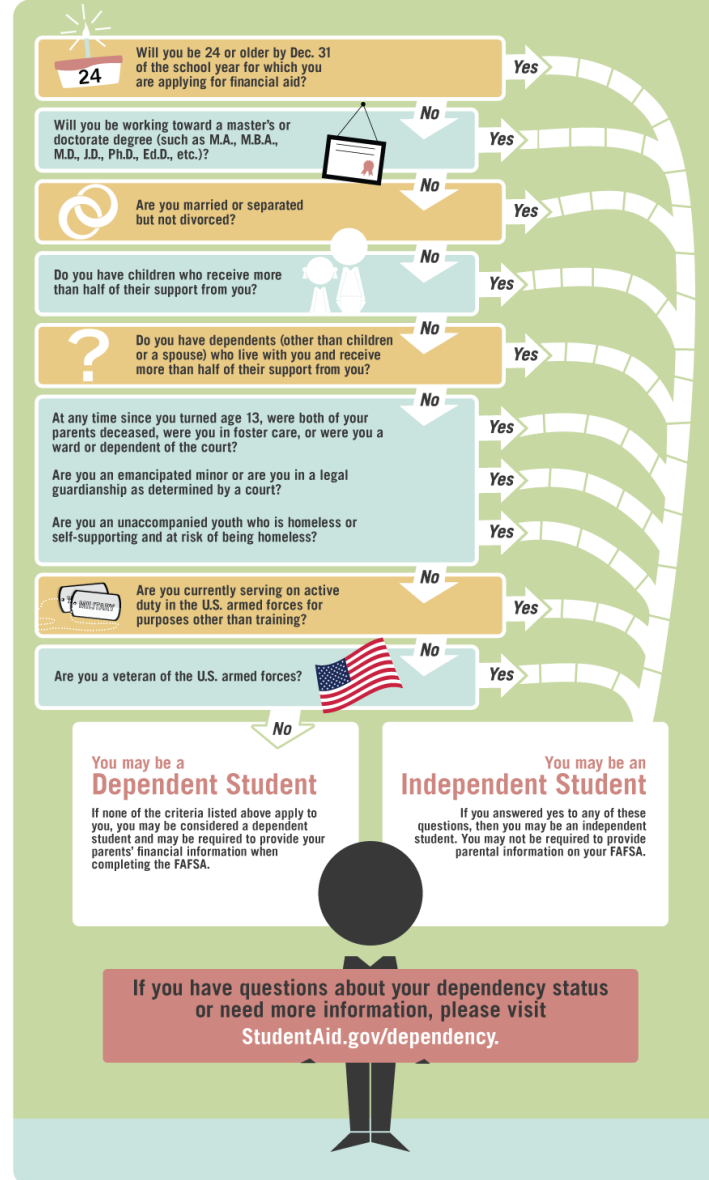


# IT ALL (IN)DEPENDS

- To be Independent
  - Must be 24 by December 31 of the award year
- Filling out FAFSA ≠ Paying For College
- If Situation is Unique → Dependency Override
- Last option: FAFSA with Student Info only → Unsubsidized loan only
- Case example:
  - Married 22 year old.
  - Divorces and is now single and 23.
  - Would be required to file as a Dependent Student.
- Always work with the Financial Aid Officer

## Do I Have to Provide My Parents' Information on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)?

All applicants for federal student aid are considered either "independent" or "dependent." Dependent students are required to include information about their parents on the FAFSA. By answering a few questions, you can get a good idea of which category you fit into.





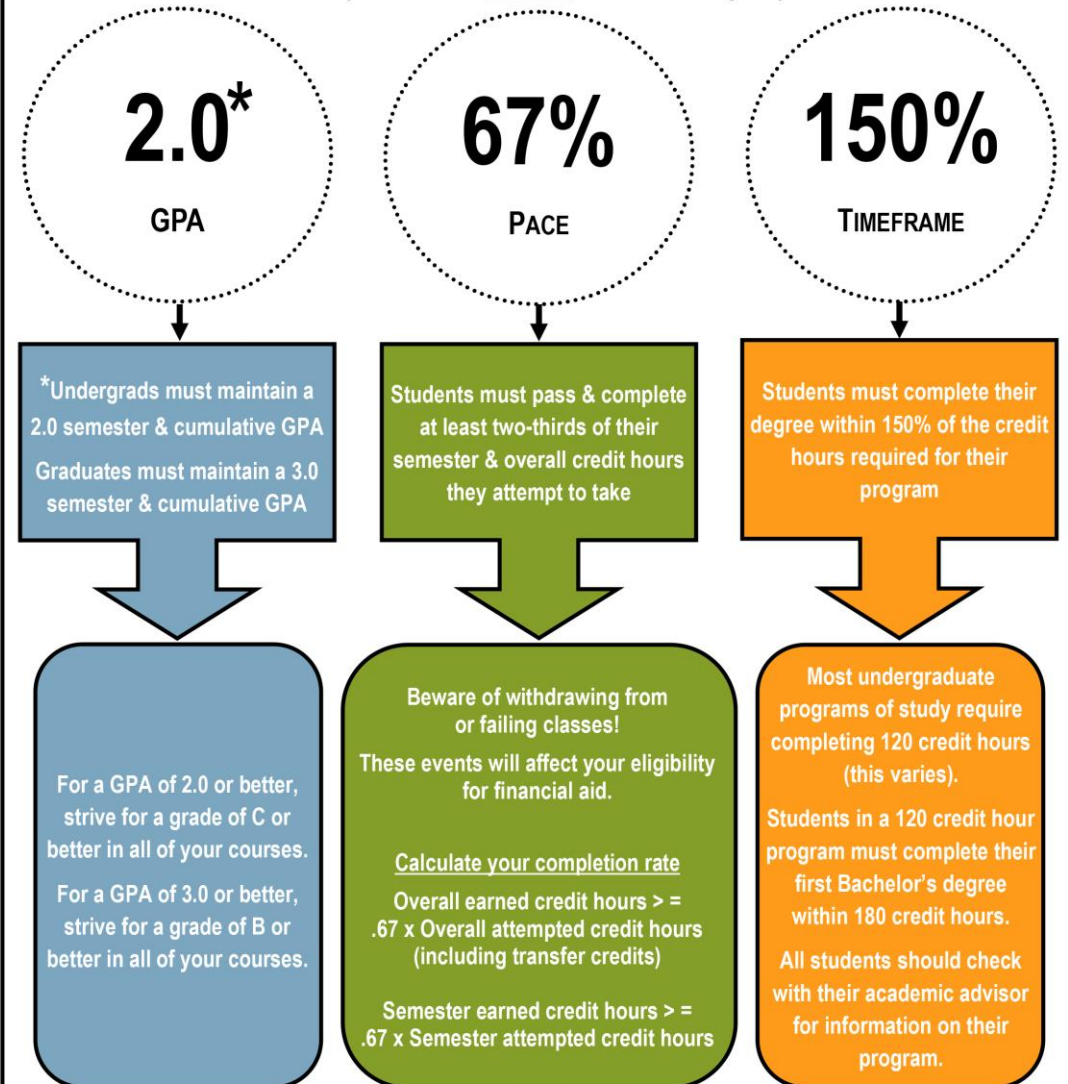
# SAP – SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

- Example of a School's SAP policy →
- SAP policies are UP TO THE SCHOOL but must contain:
  - Qualitative Standard
    - At least a 2.0 by the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year for programs longer than 2 years
    - Could be lower interim (school's discretion)
  - Quantitative Standard
    - Must measure total credits earned divided by courses attempted
    - Must be in pace to finish within maximum timeframe
  - Maximum Timeframe
    - Must complete program within 150% of credit hours required
- Measures use ALL CREDITS attempted whether paid for by financial aid or not AND whether at the current institution or transferred
- School choice to limit to only courses within program or all courses through history

## UNDERSTANDING S.A.P.

S.A.P. = SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

The requirements to maintain financial aid eligibility:



Additional information on Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress can be found at:  
[admissions.pnw.edu/financial-aid/pnw-sap](https://admissions.pnw.edu/financial-aid/pnw-sap)

# SAP CONTINUED

- If schools measure SAP every semester (payment period), allowed to offer a warning period to students
- Process:
  - SAP Good
  - SAP Warning
  - SAP Suspension
    - Appeal
    - If Appeal granted, SAP Probation
  - SAP Termination
- No Warning for Maximum Timeframe
- SAP status could be different than Academic Status



# PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT

- Authorized by HEA Sec. 479A(a):
  - “IN GENERAL—Nothing in this part shall be interpreted as limiting the authority of the financial aid administrator, on the basis of adequate documentation, to make adjustments on a case-by-case basis to the cost of attendance or the values of the data items required to calculate the expected student or parent contribution (or both) to allow for treatment of an individual eligible applicant with special circumstances.”
- Discretion of the FAA





# CASE EXAMPLE

- Brianna is a returning adult student for 2020-21. She has taken several years away from school but has decided to return to school to pursue her lifetime goal of becoming a Psychologist. She is entering your program as a sophomore with 36 transfer credits. She has come to your office in June 2020 asking for advice.
- Brianna has been working full-time as a waitress and part-time in a retail establishment earning \$45,000 a year (2018 wages and AGI). She filed her FAFSA in November 2019. In December 2019, she married her wife, Lucy, and they filed a joint tax return for the 2019 year; their income for 2019 was \$117,000 (\$50,000 in wages for Brianna, \$65,000 in wages for Lucy and \$2,000 in interest and dividend payments). As she was not married at the time she filed the FAFSA, Brianna filed as single.
- Brianna is planning on quitting her jobs as a waitress and a retail employee as of the end of July 2020 so that she can focus full-time on her studies. She wants to know what impact this will have on her financial aid and whether you will take into account that she will not be working during the time that she will be in school. She does not want to borrow loans, and hopes to be considered for a Pell Grant.



# CREDIT FOR CREDIT

- **Excess Hours – Florida Statute 1009.286**
  - With Chapter 2018-132, up to 12 credits can be refunded if student completed BS/BA within 4 years of entry.
- **Three-peat rule – Florida Statute 1009.285**
  - Different than Financial Aid Rule (can take a course 1 more time for payment after earning a D or better in a course)
- **Credit for Prior Learning**
  - Not an aid issue – maybe?
    - Portfolio prep class?
    - Can't receive retroactive pay
- **Competency Based Programs / Direct Assessment**
  - An area of policy development
  - Look for this in the current Reauthorization of HEA proposals

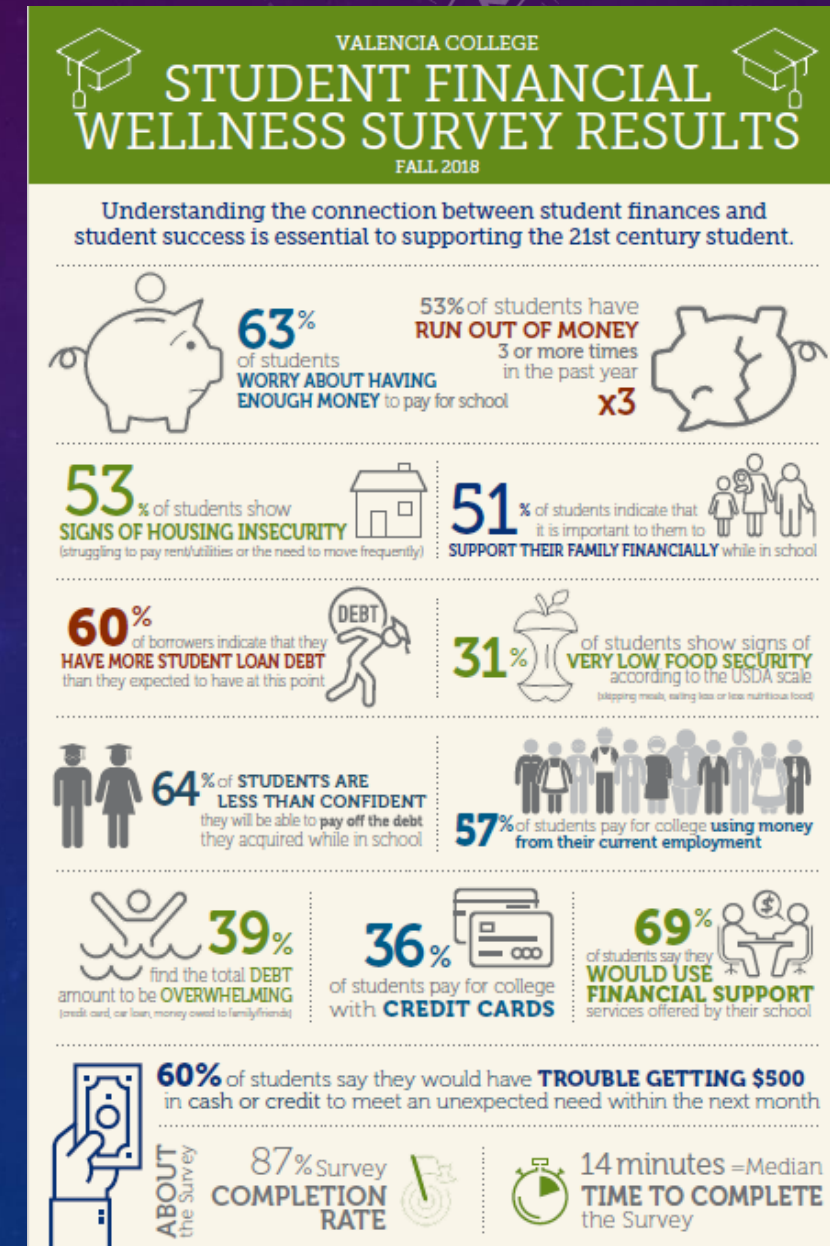
## How Excess Hours Affect You

Entered a State University in Florida	Baseline Hours Limit	Surcharge
Before Fall 2009	None	None
Fall 2009 - Summer 2011	120%	50%
Fall 2011 - Summer 2012	115%	100%
Fall 2012 and After	110%	100%



# HELP! IT'S AN EMERGENCY

- Financial Status of Students is increasingly at issue
- More than 70% of colleges offer some kind of program ([https://www.naspa.org/images/uploads/main/Emergency\\_Aid\\_Report.pdf](https://www.naspa.org/images/uploads/main/Emergency_Aid_Report.pdf))
- Program is often housed in Student Affairs
- Emergency Aid must be considered as part of financial aid award
- Not great at publicizing programs to students



# LAST MILE COLLEGE COMPLETION PROGRAM

- HB7071 created the “Last Mile Completer Program”
- However, no money authorized by the Legislature
- In the interim, all 28 Florida colleges have agreed to use existing resources to provide support for students who would qualify - <https://www.flgov.com/2019/10/11/governor-desantis-announces-all-28-florida-colleges-support-the-last-mile-college-completion-program/>

Section 31. Section 1009.75, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1009.75 Last Mile College Completion Program.—

(1) Beginning with the 2019-2020 academic year, the Last Mile College Completion Program is established within the Department of Education to annually award the cost of in-state tuition and required fees to students classified as residents pursuant to s. 1009.21 who are in good standing at Florida College System institutions and state universities and who are within 12 or fewer credit hours of completing their first associate or baccalaureate degree. Any student who has earned college credit from a regionally accredited postsecondary institution within a period of 8 academic years before the year in which the student submits an application pursuant to subsection (2) is eligible to participate in the program. The award amount may not exceed the difference between the full cost of attendance and the total of the student's financial aid, excluding loans.

(2)(a) The department shall create a simple, web-based application for any student to identify his or her intent to enroll and complete his or her associate or baccalaureate degree within three academic terms at one or more Florida College System institutions or state universities or through an online competency-based program delivered by a regionally accredited, not-for-profit university.

(b) The department shall refer the student to the intended college or colleges for continued processing of eligibility, feasibility of reverse-transfer, award status, and enrollment. The participating Florida College System institution or state university must determine each referred student's eligibility and report that information to the department on behalf of the student in a format prescribed by the department.

(c) Once each student has successfully passed the course or courses for each term enrolled during the program period, the department shall disburse the funds to the participating institution or university.

(3) Funding for the program specified under this section is contingent upon legislative appropriation.

(4) The State Board of Education and the Board of Governors shall adopt rules and regulations, respectively, to implement this section including, but not limited to, application processes, priority degree fields for award recipients, and reporting processes.



# QUESTIONS / COMMENTS?

- Other areas where adult completers need assistance?
- Questions or comments?
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