You have been selected for Verification

Verification is the process of evaluating the accuracy of your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The U.S Department of Education (ED) selects a percentage of FAFSA applications for verification each year. The University of Southern Indiana (USI) also reserves the right to select additional students for verification.

Applicants selected for verification cannot receive Federal or State Financial Assistance until the verification process is completed. If you are selected for verification after aid has been disbursed, certain types of aid such as the Pell Grant will be returned to ED until verification has been completed.

Notification of Selection

Applicants are initially notified of their selection for verification by ED on the Student Aid Report (SAR). Students are notified by USI primarily through the myUSI portal. Instructions for checking myUSI may be found online at www.usi.edu/finaid/Handouts/myusi.pdf. In addition, Student Financial Assistance sends letters and e-mails beginning in March/April to remind students of their responsibility.

Required Documents

ED is customizing verification; therefore, not all students selected for verification will have the same requirements. You will need to check myUSI to see what requirements are specific to you.

Deadlines

You are strongly encouraged to submit all requested verification documents to Student Financial Assistance as soon as possible. Processing times vary, but during peak times of the year such as July and August processing may take up to 8 weeks or more.

- State Financial Assistance cannot be paid after the end of the term; therefore all documents should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the end of the term for processing.

- The deadline to complete verification to receive the Federal Pell grant is 120 days after the student’s last date of attendance during the 2014-2015 academic year (or the 2014-2015 federal deadline, whichever comes first).

Please remember that Federal and State Financial Assistance cannot be disbursed until this process has been completed. Failure to complete verification within the required time frame will result in reduction or cancellation of State and Federal financial assistance.

Review of Documents

Once all requested verification documents have been received, USI will compare your documents to your FAFSA. If discrepancies are found, USI will make the necessary corrections to the FAFSA and it will be resubmitted electronically to ED for processing. Note: We are required to address any conflicting information; therefore, if there is conflicting information on any of the worksheets they may be sent back to you for confirmation and/or additional documentation may be requested.

Notification of Results

If verification results in discrepancies that require a correction to the FAFSA, you will receive an updated Student Aid Report (SAR). The SAR will detail the items that were corrected and it will provide a recalculated Expected Family Contribution (EFC). You will also receive an email from Student Financial Assistance informing you that verification has been completed and reminding you to check myUSI for updated award information.

Reporting Fraud

Students who purposely give false or misleading information on any of the verification documentation may be fined, sentenced to jail, or both. In cases where intent to commit fraud to obtain federal funds is suspected, USI will refer the case to the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Inspector General for review and resolution. No further processing of financial aid will occur until the case has been resolved.

For the most accurate and up-to-date information please check your myUSI regularly!