Beginning in the 2013-2014 academic year the Department of Education has customized the verification process, which means that a student’s SAR (Student Aid Report) may be flagged for the following categories:

**V1—Standard Verification**
Verification of household size, number in college, child support paid, food stamps and tax information and/or income earned from work (W-2’s REQUIRED) for non-tax filers

**V2—SNAP—Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program formerly known as food stamps**
Verification of food stamps received by household members

**V3—Child support Paid**
Verification of child support paid by household members

**V4—Custom Verification**
Verification of the following:
- Child support paid
- SNAP (Food Stamps)
- High School Completion
- Identity/Statement of Educational Purpose

**V5—Aggregate Verification Group**
Verification of all combined verification groups V1-V4

*NOTE: Work or student identification badges/cards ARE NOT acceptable forms of identification for sections V4 and V5. Forms of identification MUST BE A VALID driver’s license or some form of VALID government issued identification for sections V4 and V5.*

Students who are selected for verification will be required to submit the required documentation to the Financial Aid Office for review before a processed financial aid award can be made.

In addition to the verification changes, there will be changes to the Federal Pell Grant and Federal Direct Loan programs for the 2013-2014 academic year. **The maximum Federal Pell grant amount will increase to $5,645.00. The Federal Direct Loan program will undergo changes as a result of the nation’s sequester that took effect on March 1, 2013. Student and parent PLUS loan borrowers will begin seeing an increase in their student loan interest. The interest rate on the Federal Direct Stafford subsidized and unsubsidized loans will increase by approximately 1.05 percent for students and the interest rate for the Federal Direct PLUS loan will increase to approximately 4.20 percent. The Department of Education plans to send notifications to student and parent borrowers who have a Direct Loan where the first disbursement occurs during the period of the sequestration. Student and parent loan borrowers that wish to cancel or reduce the amount of their loans as result of this change should contact the Financial Aid Office.**