Understanding Your 2013-2014 Award Letter

1. AWARD LETTER. Your award letter represents the types of financial aid you are eligible to receive during the coming year. You may receive additional award letters as other types of aid become available.

2. FINANCIAL NEED. Your award was determined based on the following criteria

   \[\text{Cost of Attendance (COA)} - \text{Expected Family Contribution (EFC)} = \text{Financial Need}\]

   Not all types of aid are based on financial need. Your awards could contain both need-based and non-need based aid.

3. VERIFICATION.

   Verification Worksheet. Required for students selected for verification. This form must be returned to CSU with a copy of the student and parents’ (or spouse's) Federal IRS Tax Transcript(s). Important: Your financial aid cannot be disbursed until you complete the verification process.

   Federal IRS Tax Transcript. Federal Regulations have changed. If you are chosen for verification you may be required to provide a copy of your 2012 IRS Tax Transcript. This is not a copy of your 1040, but a document that you request from the IRS which will show that you have actually filed, and they have recorded your 2012 Tax Return. A copy can be obtained by visiting the IRS website or by calling the IRS at 1-800-908-9946. You may also use the “IRS Data Retrieval Tool” located in your FAFSA. Directions on how to utilize this tool can be located at http://www.charlestonsouthern.edu/admissions/tuition/financialaid/index.html.

   2012 Non-Tax Filer Statement. This statement must be completed by the student and/or parent if you are a U.S. citizen, eligible non-citizen, and/or U.S. resident and are not required to file a 2012 U.S. federal tax return. You must attach copies of any W-2 form(s) and/or 1099 form(s) received in 2012.

   Statement of Educational Purpose. Must be completed by the student in person at CSU or if the student is unable to appear in person at CSU, must provide the original notarized Statement of Educational Purpose with the completed/signed Notary’s Certificate of Acknowledgement to verify his/her identity by presenting a valid government-issued photo identification (ID), such as, but not limited to, a driver’s license, other state-issued ID, or passport.

   Child Support Paid Worksheet. This form is required to be filled out for anyone that has paid out child support for the 2012 tax year.

4. WORK-STUDY. The Student Employment Office will contact you in the near future with additional information required to secure a job on campus. In order for you to earn your work study award, you must work. You will be paid according to the number of hours you work per month. Work Study is considered part-time employment; therefore, the wages earned are taxed. All work study related questions should be directed to the Student Employment Coordinator at 843-863-8067.

5. STATE SCHOLARSHIPS.

   S.C. Life and S.C. Hope Scholarships. Students receiving the S.C. LIFE Scholarship must earn 30 credit hours within the academic year and maintain a cumulative 3.0 GPA. All college level courses earned at a college or university in South Carolina will be counted towards your 30 credit hours and your GPA eligibility will be calculated using all prior grades. Students receiving the S.C. HOPE Scholarship must earn 30 credit hours within the academic year and maintain a cumulative 3.0 GPA to receive a S.C. LIFE Scholarship for the following year. The S.C. HOPE Scholarship is only available for one year.

   S.C. Palmetto Fellows. Students receiving the S.C. Palmetto Fellows Scholarship must earn 30 credit hours within the academic year and maintain a cumulative 3.0 GPA. 3.0 GPA must be earned at CSU within the academic year.

03/2013
6. **LOANS.**

**Direct Subsidized Stafford Loan.** The Direct Subsidized Stafford Loan is a federal loan in the student’s name and has a fixed interest rate of 6.8% for loan for loans received after July 1, 2013 (rates maybe lower for loans received prior this date). The interest rate does not accrue while the student is enrolled. There is a six month grace period after the student graduates or ceases to be enrolled at least half-time (6 credit hours) before repayment begins. (see item 6)

**Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan.** The same as a Direct Subsidized Stafford Loan except the interest does accrue while the student is enrolled. The interest has a fixed interest rate of 6.80% and can be paid quarterly or allowed to accrue and be capitalized to the principal. There is a six month grace period after the student graduates or ceases to be enrolled at least half-time (6 credit hours) before repayment begins. (see item 6)

**Perkins Loan.** The Perkins Loan is a fixed rate loan at 5% interest. It is a simple interest loan in the student’s name. There is a nine month grace period after the student graduates or ceases to be enrolled at least half-time (6 credit hours) before repayment begins. (see item 6)

**Direct PLUS (Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students).** This is a loan in the parent’s name. The PLUS has a fixed interest rate of 7.9%. The amount of repayment depends on the total borrowed. There are no pre-payment penalties. The amount of the loan is subject to loan approval. *If parents are determined to be ineligible for a Direct PLUS Loan, students may be eligible to receive an additional Unsubsidized Stafford Loan.*

7. **REQUIRED ENTRANCE LOAN COUNSELING ONLINE.** All students who receive funds, through either the Direct Subsidized Stafford Loan or Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan program, must complete the Entrance Loan Counseling online at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov) prior to funds being disbursed. The online counseling session provides information about how to manage your student loans, both during and after college.

**MASTER PROMISSORY NOTE.** Students who have been awarded a Direct Stafford Loan or parents who have applied and been approved for a Direct Parent Plus Loan, are required to sign the Master Promissory Note (MPN) at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov). The loan will not be disbursed to the student account until the promissory note is signed.

*Once you have completed this process, CSU will receive the information electronically for your financial aid file.*

Students who have been awarded a Perkins Loan must sign the MPN at [http://www.ecsi.net/promW8](http://www.ecsi.net/promW8). You may contact the CSU Student Accounts Office at studentaccounts@csuniv.edu or 866-248-0445 / 843-863-8058.

8. **MAXIMUM FREE AID.** The maximum amount a student can receive in grants and scholarships at CSU is equal to the student’s direct costs (tuition only for a commuter student; tuition, room and board for a resident student) plus $1,400/year for a book allowance. *If a student exceeds this amount, the student’s institutional scholarship(s) will be reduced.* Other rules may apply for athletes according to NCAA Regulations.

9. **SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS.** All students must maintain the minimum requirements for Satisfactory Academic Progress and Hours Earned to continue receiving financial aid. These requirements are outlined in the University Catalog under Financial Aid which is available on the CSU website at: [http://www.charlestonsouthern.edu/admissions/tuition/financialaid/sap.html](http://www.charlestonsouthern.edu/admissions/tuition/financialaid/sap.html)
10. MOVING ON- or OFF-CAMPUS MAY AFFECT YOUR FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY. If you choose to live on-campus or move off-campus, your institutional scholarship may change. Contact the Financial Aid Office for more information. You will also need to complete the Award Update Form for housing changes.

11. OTHER PAYMENT OPTIONS.

My Payment Plan. CSU offers a monthly payment plan. This plan offers choices for financing your education including monthly payments plans and e-payment options. For additional information on CSU’s Payment Plan visit:
http://www.charlestonsouthern.edu/currentstudents/studentaccounts/faq.html

Alternative loans are available to degree-seeking students who need additional funds to meet the Cost of Attendance. They are only awarded after the student has received a Direct Stafford loan. Students applying for an alternative loan may borrow up to the total budget for the current academic year. These loans are in the student’s name and approved based on the borrower’s credit and work history. A co-signer may be required. The interest rates on these loans are variable and most go into repayment six months after the separation date.

On-Line Payments. The Student Accounts Office accepts payments online at
www.charlestonsouthern.edu

Alternative Loans. Locate a list of alternative loans at
http://www.charlestonsouthern.edu/admissions/loans/private.html

12. REVISIONS TO YOUR AWARD LETTER.

Financial Aid Live. Find out if your processed FAFSA has been received; if you've submitted all required documents; and best of all, view your CSU financial aid award LIVE. Any updates or revisions to your awards can be viewed here as well. Use your CSU ID and PIN to access online at by visiting MyCSU and click on Financial Aid LIVE.

Declining Awards. If you wish to cancel or reduce any Financial Aid awards, you will be required to fill out an Award Update Form. This document can be downloaded from your Financial Aid Live Account.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Charleston Southern University
Office of Enrollment Services
P.O. Box 118087
Charleston, SC 29423-8087
Office: 800-947-7474 or 843-863-7050
Fax: 843-863-7070
Email: financialaid@csuniv.edu