

**OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
FINANCIAL AID OFFICE  
POLICY STATEMENT  
MONITORING STUDENT LOAN DEBT  
AND  
FINANCIAL AID AWARD PACKAGING POLICY  
HEA SEC.479 (A)(c), 34 CFR685.301 (a)(8)**

The Financial Aid Office at Oklahoma City Community College is concerned about student loan debt.

The college does not want to cause students to accumulate excessive student loan debt while pursuing their educational plan. Excessive debt from student loan borrowing may cause difficulties when students face repayment after leaving the college at graduation or due to a change in circumstances beyond their control. The result of payment difficulties could be default and its consequences.

The packaging policy of the Financial Aid Office is to award additional Federal Direct Stafford Unsubsidized Student Loans to students only after the base annual amount of student loan eligibility each year up to \$3,500 or \$4,500, and after offering Federal Work Study. Thirty-one or more credit hours earned, including eligible remedial credits, is required to be awarded up to \$4,500 or level two Subsidized Direct Stafford Loans. Final award amounts are based on demonstrated financial need and other financial aid in your financial aid package. However, the position of the Financial Aid Office is to support the value of student self-help by earning part of your aid through the Federal Work-Study Program. Students not interested in Federal Work Study positions should consider regular student employment. Students not interested in Federal Work Study will generally be considered for additional loan funds.

The Financial Aid Office considers cumulative loan debt. This includes debt accumulated while attending Oklahoma City Community College and/or other colleges, universities, technology centers, and career schools. Students may want to plan appropriately to avoid borrowing excessively before completing their degree program at OCCC or if they are planning to earn a bachelor's degree or higher.

Statutory regulations passed in 1991 allow Financial Aid to refuse to certify a loan or to certify a loan for less than the maximum eligibility if there is documentable reason for doing so. The student must be informed by written communication: 34 CFR 682.301(a)(8)

Therefore, as Financial Aid staff become aware of excessively high student loan debt, especially for students attending a community college, the Financial Aid Office may not award a loan in your financial aid package, may not approve any request for a Federal Direct Stafford Loan, or may offer a reduced amount of Federal Direct Stafford Student Loan when awarding financial assistance each year.

Because this policy is based on professional judgment, [HEA Section 479 A (a)] there is no general rule applied to all students or groups of students. Each decision to certify additional Federal Direct Stafford Loan debt is made on a case-by-case basis and is within the authority of the Financial Aid Office. You will be notified in writing of the specific reason(s) for the decision. See OCCC Financial Aid Office Packaging Policy Fact Sheet for more explanation.

The OCCC Financial Aid Office communicates by email using the email assigned to you by the College at the time of admission. Check your email regularly for important correspondence.

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