



# TAP: Making a plan for success

NYSFAAA representatives:  
Shalena Duprey and Kristina Delbridge



# Time to Change Things Up

- We've targeted six potential problem areas within the TAP program.
  - High School Diploma
  - Residency
  - Declaration of Major
  - Remedial Students
  - Repeat Courses
  - Good Academic Standing

# Let's Chat

- o Break into 6 groups to discuss on topic each.
- o What do we want to accomplish?
  - Why is it difficult to maintain compliance?
  - What about it makes it a problem area?
  - What are some strategies you have in place, or you can think of, that would end the possibility of non-compliance on your campus?



# High School Diploma

(or it's equivalent)

- Certificate of graduation or high school diploma must be from a secondary school that is recognized, authorized or approved by the state educational entity having jurisdiction;
- A prior degree;
- 24 semester hour credits earned at an accredited institution in the appropriate distribution to qualify for a high school equivalency diploma pursuant to the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education (6 credits in English Language arts, 3 credits each in the Humanities, Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Social Sciences, and 6 additional credits applicable to the student's program);
- Appropriate documentation from the local school district of completion of high school requirements through home schooling; or
- A GED test score certificate showing passing scores.

# Residency

- o Education Law (Section 661-5) requires a student to be a legal resident of the state of New York in order to be eligible for Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), and most other state scholarships and other awards. A New York court decision defined “residence” as the equivalent of “domicile” as it is used in the statute.



# Declaration of Major

Students enrolled in two-year academic programs leading to associate degrees must declare a major no later than within 30 days of the end of the institution's add/drop period in the first term of their sophomore year. Students enrolled in four-year academic programs leading to baccalaureate degrees must declare a major no later than within 30 days of the institution's add/drop period in the first term of their junior year.



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# Remedial Students

- o Remedial Student- Is defined as a student: (A) whose scored on a recognized college placement exam or nationally recognized standardized exam indicate the need for remediation for at least two semesters, as certified by the college and approved by the New York State Education department (SED); or (B) who was enrolled in at least six semester hours of non-credit remedial courses, as approved by SED, in the first term they received a TAP award; or (C) who is or was enrolled in an opportunity program
- o (HESC Financial Aid Services Bulletin 2011-005, 1).

# Repeat Courses

- A student can repeat a course and have the course count as part of the minimum full-time or part-time course load for financial aid purposes when the student did not previously earn credit for the course.
- A student who receives an F or a W in a course does not earn credit; therefore, courses in which F or W grades have been earned can be repeated and count towards full-time or part-time study requirements.

◦ Exceptions...



# Good Academic Standing

## o POP

- o POP: *completion requirement*-completing/getting a grade in a percentage of the minimum full-time course load in each term an award is received.

## o SAP

- o SAP: measure of the student's *achievement*, of earning credits toward a degree or certificate with a specified grade point average. Pursuit of program is a measure of the student's *effort* to complete a program.

## o **Credit Accrual and GPA requirements**

**When students don't succeed...THE APPEAL PROCESS.**



# Compliance through Communication and Collaboration

- o Each campus is different: look at yours – is it designed for success?
- o Getting the TAP Certifying Officer out of the dark
- o Getting other offices on board



# What does this mean to your campus?

- o The academic side of the house isn't usually aware of the implications on aid.
- o Does your academic policy different than the state policy and, if so, how do you handle?
- o Is this responsibility on one individual?
- o State aid has strict standards, are they being applied?
- o How is it communicated internally and externally?



# Number Games

- We are put in the middle often- our inclination is to want to help people get through college but to ensure continued eligibility for all of our students we must follow the law.
- One award for one student or a huge fine?



# Legislative Changes



- o Whose responsibility is it?
  - o Communication with TAP Certifying Officer, Campus Staff, Students.
- o Having a procedure in place for when things change
  - o 2010 legislative changes to the TAP program...
  - o October 2013 recommendation to program changes occurring 14-15.

# Questions?



# Thank you for Attending!

o Shalena Duprey - [sduprey@nccc.edu](mailto:sduprey@nccc.edu)

NYSFAAA Executive Council Representative Region 8

o Kristina Delbridge- [kdelbridge@esc.edu](mailto:kdelbridge@esc.edu)

NYSFAAA Executive Council Representative Region 4

*We encourage you to reach out to the contacts you've made during this training.*