

# CENSUS DATE POLICY



## **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy and procedure is to establish a Census Date for Strayer University (the “University”). It applies to all University students receiving Title IV financial aid for purposes of Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) and it is also used to determine enrollment status (full-time, part-time, etc.) for students receiving Title IV Pell grants and some state aid programs.

## **Authority to Implement/Modify Policy**

This policy is subject to change in order to comply with administrative and regulatory requirements. In such situations, students and University staff will be notified of any change in this policy and procedure document as soon as practicable. Questions regarding this policy should be addressed to the Senior Vice President, Student Financial Services.

## **Overview**

In accordance with federal regulations, for students who begin attendance in at least one class, Student Financial Services will recalculate federal Pell grants and some state grant awards based on the enrollment status as of the published Census Date and any attendance completed before the Census Date. The Census Date for all terms will be the fourth Monday of each academic term. The Census Date has no impact on the student’s eligibility for Federal Direct Subsidized, Unsubsidized, and PLUS loans.

When a student withdraws from all classes, regardless if the withdrawal is before or after the Census Date, the University must perform a Return to Title IV calculation. When a student withdraws from all classes before the Census Date, Strayer will pro-rate their Pell Grant award based on any attendance completed prior to the withdrawal and include that amount in the Return to Title IV calculation.

## **Federal Pell Grant Programs**

Beginning on and any time after the Census Date, students cannot request changes to Federal Pell Grant awards. If a student drops credits prior to the Census Date, the student may be required to repay some or all of their aid that was disbursed to them if they do not, at that time, meet the enrollment level requirements for the aid they have been awarded. If a student adds credits after the Census Date, the student may not be eligible to receive additional amounts based on that increased enrollment.

## **State Grant Programs**

Several state grant programs utilize the Census Date to determine a student’s enrollment. Specifically, the Florida Student Assistance Grant, the Pennsylvania state grant program, and the Vermont State Grant utilize the Census Date when determining a student’s enrollment. Beginning on and any time after the Census Date, students cannot request changes to any of these state grant programs. If a student drops credits prior to the Census Date, the student may be required to repay some or all of their aid that was disbursed to them if they do not, at that time,

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meet the enrollment requirements for the types of aid they have been awarded. If a student adds credits after the Census Date, the student may not be eligible to receive additional financial aid.

The Florida Bright Futures grant program does not utilize a Census Date.

### **Federal Loan Programs**

Federal Loans are disbursed based upon attendance recorded at the time of disbursement. Therefore, the Census Date will not impact the disbursement of Federal Loans. However, if students withdraw from the University before or after the Census Date, the return to Title IV calculation may require a portion of the funds received to be returned.