CSU Dominguez Hills anticipates another record-breaking number of first-time freshman and transfer students for fall 2014. We’re working to make sure those students are prepared to start their semesters strong. In this issue of the Counselor Connection, you’ll find helpful financial aid information to share with your students as well as next steps required for enrollment.
## Financial Aid Application FAQ

1. **How do students apply for financial aid?**

   Students can apply for financial aid by submitting the 2014-2015 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov). Be sure to have students enter CSUDH’s federal school code 001141 to have results sent to us electronically.

   Students are also encouraged to apply for scholarships, which have separate applications and deadlines that must be met. For more information and to download scholarship applications, visit [CSUDH.EDU/Scholarships](http://CSUDH.EDU/Scholarships).

2. **When is the financial aid application deadline?**

   The priority filing deadline for the FAFSA is March 3. The deadline to submit additional documents for the 2014-2015 school year is May 15. Students must meet this deadline to have registration fees deferred. Scholarship application deadlines vary, and may be found at [CSUDH.EDU/Scholarships](http://CSUDH.EDU/Scholarships).

3. **Can students have their tax information automatically added to the FAFSA?**

   Yes, it is the easiest and most accurate way to complete the FAFSA. To do this, students and/or their parents must file their federal tax returns three weeks before completing the FAFSA. This gives the IRS time to receive and post the data, so it is available to populate the student and parent income sections of the FAFSA.

4. **How should students keep track of their financial aid application?**

   Students should check their financial aid application and award status by logging on to [My.CSUDH.EDU](http://My.CSUDH.EDU). There, students can see what documents they still need to submit, as well as accept or decline financial aid awards. Students can find their [My.CSUDH.EDU activation information](http://My.CSUDH.EDU) in their acceptance letter from CSUDH.

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## Next Steps for First-Time Freshmen

Students who plan to start at CSUDH in fall 2014 as first-time freshmen must complete four required steps before they can enroll. Share these important next steps with your students so they’ll be ready to start their first semester strong.

**STEP 1: Take the EPT/ELM tests right away.**

Make sure your students take the English Placement Test (EPT) and Entry Level Mathematics (ELM) Tests as soon as possible. To find out if they’re required to take these tests, students should log on to [My.CSUDH.EDU](http://My.CSUDH.EDU). Students can check for testing dates and register for tests online at [CSUDH.EDU/Testing](http://CSUDH.EDU/Testing).

**STEP 2: Confirm intent to enroll by May 1.**

Students are required to confirm their intent to enroll before they can attend New Student Orientation, meet with academic advisors and register for classes. To complete this step, students should log on to [My.CSUDH.EDU](http://My.CSUDH.EDU) and click on “Confirm intent to enroll.”

**STEP 3: Sign up for New Student Orientation.**

New Student Orientation for freshmen is not only required, it’s a great way for students to familiarize themselves with the campus, meet faculty and staff, learn about student services and programs, get help registering for the right classes and meet other students. Learn more at [CSUDH.EDU/FreshmanNSO](http://CSUDH.EDU/FreshmanNSO).

**STEP 4: Tell us how the student plans to meet the Early Start requirement.**

The Early Start Program requires all incoming CSU freshmen who have not met EPT and/or ELM scoring criteria to complete academic skill-building courses before the beginning of the fall term. Students can fulfill their Early Start requirements at any CSU campus, including CSUDH, the summer prior to attending the university.

Before enrolling at CSUDH for fall 2014, students who are required to participate in Early Start must indicate how they intend to meet this requirement. To do this, students should log on to [My.CSUDH.EDU](http://My.CSUDH.EDU) and click on the Early Start Smart Page, which will be available starting in March. To learn more about Early Start and how to meet requirements, visit [CSUDH.EDU/EarlyStart](http://CSUDH.EDU/EarlyStart).
President Hagan Wins Award

Congratulations to CSUDH President Willie Hagan, who received the 2013 Ambassador of Education Award from the Millennium Momentum Foundation. Dr. Hagan was honored for his role in improving access to education at the Foundation’s 11th Annual Opening Doors Ceremony on Friday, December 6.

CSUDH Students Named Best and Brightest

Current CSUDH students Yaneli Ramirez, Vanessa Alvarez and Nicole Harris were among 13 university students to be awarded 2013 Best and Brightest Scholarships from the Millennium Momentum Foundation.

Teaching Program Receives Grant

For a third year, CSUDH received an $800,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to fund its innovative Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program. The grant provides scholarships for 30 transfer students working toward becoming credentialed math and science teachers in local public schools.

Important Changes to Financial Aid

Students’ ability to apply and qualify for financial aid have been affected by a number of recent changes put in place by the federal and state governments as well as the CSU system. To help you and your students understand these changes and their effect, we’ve outlined the key policies and processes here.

**Middle Class Scholarship:** Beginning in the 2014-2015 academic year, the Middle Class Scholarship (MCS) Program will apply to undergraduate students with family incomes up to $150,000 who attend a University of California or California State University campus. Learn more at csac.ca.gov.

**Federal Direct Subsidized Loan Changes:** Since July 1, 2013, first-time borrowers now have a limit on the time they can receive a Direct Subsidized Loan. Subsidized loan eligibility will now be limited to 150% of the published length of the student’s academic program. The Department of Education will calculate a student’s eligibility using school-reported information.

For any questions regarding these policy changes, please contact the Financial Aid Office at (310) 243-3691.

Student Spotlight

Lyzbeth Becerra, Biology Teacher in Training

A senior at CSUDH, biology major Lyzbeth Becerra is one of 200 CSU students participating in the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program. Designed for upper division and transfer students majoring in math or the sciences, the Noyce Scholars Program at CSUDH’s College of Education provides up to $20,000 in scholarship funding to help prepare the next generation of much-needed math and science teachers. As a Noyce Scholar, Lyzbeth benefits not only from financial assistance but also from hands-on experience as a paid Teaching Assistant working in a local school under the mentorship of an experienced teacher.

“If what I learned, I also hope to be able to provide my future students with a hands-on experience of biology,” she explains. “My main takeaway is . . . the importance of inspiring new students to become passionate about biology.”

To learn more about the Noyce Scholars Program at CSUDH, visit CSUDH.EDU/Noyce.

Staff Spotlight

Liat Vorobiev, International Student Services Coordinator

CSUDH has a growing community of international students, many of whom transfer to our campus from local community colleges. To help support the success of our international students, CSUDH recently welcomed the addition of Liat Vorobiev, the International Student Services (ISS) Coordinator.

As the ISS Coordinator, Liat ensures that international students maintain their legal status so that they can continue their studies at CSUDH. She also helps plan a wide range of events outside the campus that allow students to experience U.S. life and culture. Since joining CSUDH in November 2013, Liat has been impressed by how the campus-wide staff works together to put students first and promote a positive college experience for every CSUDH student, regardless of where they come from.

“My goals and priorities are to help international students on this campus to succeed,” Liat explains. “I am here to support them every step along the way.”
Important Dates & Deadlines

**March**
- Take EPT/ELM ASAP
- March 3: Priority financial aid application deadline
- March 15: Transfer students: Transcripts deadline for coursework completed through fall 2013

**March 31**
- Cesar Chavez holiday, campus closed

**April 12**
- CSUDH Spring Preview Day for admitted students

**April 28**
- Fall 2014 registration begins

**May 1**
- Intent to enroll deadline

**May 15**
- Financial Aid document deadline
- Priority housing application deadline
- Transfer Student Orientation

**May 23, 30**
- Memorial Day holiday, campus closed

**June 6, 13, 19, 28**
- Freshman New Student Orientation

**July 4**
- Independence Day holiday, campus closed

**July 15**
- Official transcripts deadline

**August 23**
- Fall classes begin

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New at CSUDH

**New Learning Lab Opens**
On November 20, the College of Business Administration and Public Policy officially opened its new cutting-edge Financial Market Trading and Business Simulation Lab. The lab will provide business students the opportunity to practice financial and trading skills using real market data.

**Alumni as Guest Professors**
Fifteen CSUDH alumni and two CSUDH supporters joined our campus on November 20 and 21 as professors for a day. A new program at CSUDH, Professor for a Day invites CSUDH alumni and experts in their fields to share their knowledge and experiences with current students.

**STEM Scholars at National Conference**
Twenty-four research students from CSUDH attended the Society for Advancement of Chicano and Native Americans in Science’s National Conference, hosted October 3 through 6 in San Antonio, TX. There, students presented research on a range of topics in science, technology, engineering and math.

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