

College of Saint Mary Return of Title IV Funds

Students who receive Title IV financial aid (Federal Pell grant, Iraq/Afghanistan Service Grants, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), TEACH Grant, and/or William D. Ford Federal Direct Loans) are subject to federal refund calculations if the student completely withdraws from College of Saint Mary or ceases academic engagement for all classes during the enrollment period. For all programs offered in modules, a student is a withdrawal for Title IV purposes if the student ceases academic engagement at any point prior to completing the payment period, unless the school obtains written confirmation from the student at the time of the withdrawal that he or she will attend a module that begins later in the same payment period. For programs offered in modules, students are exempt from the federal refund calculation if they ceased academic engagement because of one of the following: they completed all requirements for graduation; they successfully completed a module or combination of modules that include at least 49% of the number of countable days in the payment period; or they successfully completed coursework required for a half-time student. (Days between modules are not countable days.) CSM does not use an R2T4 Freeze Date.

The withdrawal date is considered to be the date of official withdrawal. If the student does not officially withdraw, the withdrawal date is considered to be the midpoint of the payment period unless documentation exists in the financial aid office that the student attended through a later date. If this is the case, the last date of attendance will be used for the refund calculation.

The refund amount is determined using Return of Title IV Funds calculation in CSM's PowerFAIDS software. Return calculations are done based on US Department of Education requirements. If you received less assistance than the amount that you earned, you may be able to receive those additional funds. If you received more assistance than you earned, the excess funds must be returned by the school and/or you. CSM will return any unearned Title IV funds it is responsible for returning as soon as possible but no later than 45 days of the date the school determined the student withdrew, and offer any post-withdrawal disbursement of loan funds within 30 days of that date. The following is the calculation process performed by Return of Title IV funds in PowerFAIDS.

- 1) Determine institutional charges (institutional charges include tuition; it includes room and board only if the student is living on campus).
- 2) Determine the amount of Title IV financial aid received and subject to return.
- 3) Calculate the percent of payment period completed by dividing the number of days attended by the total number of days in the payment period. For programs offered in modules, the total number of days in the payment period is the days in a module if the student attended the module or the student's coursework in that module was used to determine the amount of the student's eligibility for Title IV aid.
- 4) The amount of assistance that you have earned is determined on a pro rata basis. For example, if you completed 30% of your payment period (as determined in step three), you earn 30% of the assistance you were originally scheduled to receive. Once you have completed more than 60% of your payment period, you earn all the assistance that you were scheduled to receive for that period.
- 5) If you did not receive all of the funds that you earned, you may be due a Post-withdrawal disbursement. This occurs in very rare cases. If your Post-withdrawal disbursement includes loan funds, you must give your permission before loan funds can be disbursed. Your Post-withdrawal disbursement of grant funds may automatically be used for tuition and room and board charges.
- 6) The *percent* of unearned Title IV aid is calculated by subtracting the percentage of earned Title IV aid (step four) from 100%. The *amount* of unearned Title IV aid is calculated by multiplying the amount of Title IV aid received and subject to return (step two) by the percentage of unearned Title IV aid. The amount of unearned Title IV aid must be returned.
- 7) If you receive excess Title IV aid that must be returned, CSM must return a portion of the excess equal to the lesser of either your institutional charges (step one) multiplied by the percentage of unearned Title IV aid (step six), or the entire amount of excess funds. Any refund amount is applied in the following order: Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, Direct Subsidized Stafford Loan, Direct PLUS Loan (Graduate Student), Direct PLUS Loan (Parent), Federal Pell Grant, Iraq-Afghanistan Service Grant, Federal SEOG, and TEACH Grant.
- 8) Title IV aid returned by CSM will likely result in a balance due on your CSM student account for which you must make satisfactory repayment arrangements with Student Accounts.
- 9) If CSM is not required to return all of the excess funds, you must return the remaining amount. Any loan funds that you must return, you (or your parent for a Parent PLUS Loan) repay in accordance with the terms of the promissory note. Any amount of unearned grant funds that you must return is called an overpayment. The maximum amount of a grant overpayment that you must repay is half of the grant funds you received or were scheduled to receive. You do not have to repay a grant overpayment if the original amount of the overpayment is \$50 or less. You must make arrangements with your school or the Department of Education to return the unearned grant funds. This occurs in very rare cases, most of the time, CSM is required to return the grant and/or loan funds (steps seven and eight).

The College of Saint Mary refund policy is a separate policy which pertains to refunds of tuition after withdrawal and applies to CSM students not receiving Title IV aid as well.