

# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

ST. JOHNS RIVER STATE COLLEGE

Students who pay fees by student loans, scholarships, or through state or federal agency authorization must follow all procedures in the same manner as though they are paying by cash. In addition, these students must complete arrangements and receive approval of loans, scholarships, or agency payments by the Financial Aid Office or Business Office, prior to the deadline for fee payment listed in the academic calendar.

Students who fail to make prior arrangements, or who do not complete fee payments as scheduled, shall forfeit all course selections. State laws and regulations prohibit the extension of credit.

## **EXCESS HOURS ADVISORY**

It is important that students, including those entering the Florida College System institutions, are aware of a state provision that affects tuition charges for students who plan to eventually transfer to a state university for their baccalaureate degree. Section 1009.286, Florida Statutes, establishes an "excess hour" surcharge for students seeking baccalaureate degrees at state universities. Effective 2012-2013 academic year and after "excess hours" are defined as hours that go beyond 110% of the hours required for a baccalaureate degree program. For example, if the program requires 120 credit hours, the student may be subject to an excess hour surcharge for any credit attempted beyond 132 credit hours (110% x 120).

All students whose educational plan may include earning a baccalaureate degree should make every effort to enroll in and successfully complete those courses that are required for their intended major on their first attempt. Florida College System students intending to transfer to state universities should identify a major or "transfer program" early and, by the time the students earn 20 semester hours of college credit, be advised of admission requirement for that program, including the approved common prerequisites. Course withdrawals and/or repeats, as well as enrollment in courses nonessential to the intended major, may contribute to a potential excess hours surcharge.

All SJR State students are required to meet with an advisor once the student has completed 20 college credits. The advisors will counsel students on their academic plan to help ensure enrollment only in courses needed for the major or transfer program so that additional costs may be avoided when transferring to a state university.

## **FEE ADJUSTMENTS DUE TO SCHEDULE CHANGE**

Student fees are recalculated at the end of the period for schedule changes, as noted in the academic calendar, to determine if additional fees are due. If additional payment is required, the student will be notified. Payment must be received in the Business Office no later than one week after the date of notification.

## **REFUND POLICY - WITHDRAWAL FROM COLLEGE AND REDUCTION OF CLASS LOAD**

A refund of registration fees will be made to any student enrolled in college credit courses who officially drops on or before the last day of the late registration period of any academic term. This policy applies also to the reduction of class load.

Students who are withdrawn from a class due to non-attendance are not eligible for a refund of tuition or fees related to that class, nor will they be entitled to the financial aid related to their enrollment in that class.

Financial aid may occasionally cause a student account to appear paid when in fact it is not. Accordingly, the automated drop process does not always drop every student who has not paid. Students who register and then decide not to attend classes should drop those classes online prior to the end of the drop period, even

if payment has not been made. Students should not rely on the College to automatically drop the registration. Withdrawal from all Full Term and Term A classes will result in the student being dropped from all Term B classes.

## **EXCEPTIONS**

A full refund (100%) will be given to any student whose courses are canceled by the College or to any student who, because of serious circumstances beyond the student's control occurring prior to the mid-point of the term, is prevented from completing the term. These circumstances are limited to the following:

- death of the student or the death of an immediate family member upon whom the student is dependent for continuation of enrollment;
- prolonged physical disability of the student;
- involuntary recall or induction into the armed services; or
- other circumstances that may be approved by the President or designee with or without full 100% refund. In such cases, timely notification, along with appropriate documentation, should be made to the Vice President for Student Affairs/Assistant General Counsel.

Tuition for continuing workforce and community instructional service courses is not refundable.

## **REFUNDS/REPAYMENTS**

A statutory refund is made to federal financial aid sources, excluding Federal Work Study, if the student received financial aid funds and the student officially withdrew or was officially withdrawn from all classes prior to completing at least 60% of the term. This also applies to students who stopped attendance prior to completing at least 60% of the term and received grades of F, I, and/or W only, referred to as an "unofficial withdrawal."

For official withdrawals, SJR State's policy is to recalculate the amount of aid earned based on the date the student withdrew from all classes. For students who were officially withdrawn (by instructors), the calculation is based on the last date of attendance or final class participation date documented by the instructor(s). For unofficial withdrawals, SJR State's policy is to recalculate the amount of aid earned based on the last documented date the student participated in class. The College will bill the student any amount refunded to federal sources. A hold will be placed on the student's records until repayment is made. Repayment can be made by cash, check, or credit card to the cashier; or payment can be sent to the Business office.

Refunds will be distributed to aid sources from which the student received aid in the following order as prescribed by federal regulations:

1. unsubsidized Federal Direct Loans
2. subsidized Federal Direct Loans
3. federal PLUS Loans
4. federal Pell Grants for which a return of funds is required
5. federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants for which a return of funds is required
6. other applicable aid

Federal law specifies how the College determines the amount of federal (Title IV) financial aid that you earn if you withdraw from school. When you withdraw from all classes, the amount of federal financial aid that you have earned up to the effective date of your withdrawal is determined by a specific formula. The amount you have earned is determined on a pro rata basis. For example, if you completed 30% of your enrollment period, you earn 30% on the assistance you were originally scheduled to receive. Once you have completed 60% or more of the enrollment period, you earn all of

the assistance that you were scheduled to receive for that period.

If you receive, or the College receives, excess federal (Title IV) funds that must be returned to the federal aid program(s), the College must return a portion of the excess equal to the lesser of:

1. Your institutional charges multiplied by the unearned percentage of your funds, or
2. The entire amount of excess funds.

The College must return the amount calculated even if it did not keep this amount (for example, released the remaining balance to you). For federal grants, the College returns any required amount and includes any amount the student would be required to return.

For federal student loans, there sometimes remains an amount that the College is not required to return, so the College does not return this amount. In these cases, the student (or parent for a federal PLUS loan) repays this amount in accordance with the terms of the promissory note; that is, by making scheduled payments to the holder of the loan over a period of time.

The requirements for returning federal (Title IV) financial aid funds are separate from any refund policy the College may have; therefore, you might still owe funds to the school to cover unpaid institutional charges.

### **STUDENT REFUND OPTIONS**

All student refunds will be processed as expeditiously as possible through BankMobile. New students will be sent a refund selection kit in a green envelope from BankMobile with instructions on how to select their refund preference. Questions regarding the selection of their refund preference can be answered by contacting the Business Office at your local campus.

- Orange Park (904) 276-6800
- Palatka (386) 312-4200
- St. Augustine (904) 808-7400

### **AUTOMATIC PAYMENT PLAN**

St. Johns River State College offers a Tuition Installment Plan (TIP) for all students requiring assistance with managing their educational expenses. The TIP program will allow students to pay for tuition and fee expenses over a period of time rather than one lump sum payment before the start of the semester. The College has contracted with Nelnet Business Solutions to administer this program. This company will be responsible for the enrollment, as well as receiving the monthly payments. Enrollment in the payment plan can be completed via the SJR State website (SJRstate.edu) by logging on to the MySJRstate account. Once logged in, click on the big green button that reads “pay my tuition and fees.” A new window will open. Choose “pay over time” and follow the steps. Students needing additional information should contact the St. Johns River State College Business Office at 386-312-4117.

### **CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS**

The college no longer accepts credit card payments in person. If you wish to pay your student account by credit card, you will need to utilize our online system, MySJRstate, which is available through the student portal ([SJRstate.edu/mySJRstate.html](http://SJRstate.edu/mySJRstate.html)).

Credit card payments will be assessed a convenience fee based upon the percentage charged by the bank for the transaction (currently 1.37%). The convenience fee is subject to change at any time at the sole discretion of St. Johns River State College. The current convenience fee is always disclosed to the student prior to processing the credit card transaction.

A student may avoid paying a convenience fee by utilizing one of the following payment options:

1. Online - payments can be made by e-check (ACH payments from a checking or savings account).
2. In person - we will continue to accept cash and checks at any of the campuses.
3. Mail - personal check payments or money orders can be mailed to:

St. Johns River State College  
Attn: Business Office  
5001 St. Johns Avenue  
Palatka, Florida 32177

### **STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY**

It is the responsibility of the student to complete all requirements for dropping courses for a refund within the drop/add period. A refund will not be made unless all requirements are met. (See also academic calendar and the withdrawal section.)

### **DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS**

A student may be suspended if all fees and other financial obligations to the College have not been paid by the due date. The College will not issue an official transcript unless all financial obligations to the College, including library holds and fines, student loan repayments, veteran deferments, additional fees, inter-library loan obligations, etc., have been met.

If it becomes necessary for the College to turn over a student's account balance to a collection agency for collection, the collection cost (agency's fees) will be added to the student's account and must be paid by the student.

### **CHECKS RETURNED BY THE BANK**

If a student, or anyone on the student's behalf, issues a check or an electronic check to meet an obligation to the College during the add/drop period and the check is not honored by the bank, the student will be voided from all classes within a 24-hour period.

In all cases, a returned check fee of \$25.00 will be assessed to the student's account as authorized by Florida Statute 832.07. If a student habitually issues bad checks, even if the debt is cleared, disciplinary action may be taken.

If, due to bank error, the check is dishonored, the student must bring or fax a signed letter from the bank to the Business Office that states the bank error. This should be done immediately after the student is notified by the College that the check has been returned. There will be no returned check fee assessed to the student's account.

### **RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS**

Classification as a Florida resident shall be granted by Florida Statute Chapter 1009.21 listed below:

1009.21 Determination of resident status for tuition purposes—Students shall be classified as residents or nonresidents for the purpose of assessing tuition in postsecondary educational programs offered by charter technical career centers or career centers operated by school districts, in community colleges, and in state universities.

1. As used in this section, the term:
  - a. “Dependent child” means any person, whether or not living with his or her parent, who is eligible to be claimed by his or her parent as a dependent under the federal income tax code.
  - b. “Initial enrollment” means the first day of class at an institution of higher education.
  - c. “Institution of higher education” means any charter technical career center as defined in s. 1002.34, career center operated by a school district as defined in s. 1001.44, community college as defined in s. 1000.21(3), or state university as defined in s. 1000.21(6).
  - d. “Legal resident” or “resident” means a person who has maintained his or her residence in this state for the preceding year, has purchased a home which is occupied by him or her as his or her residence, or has established a domicile in this state pursuant to s. 222.17.
  - e. “Nonresident for tuition purposes” means a person who does not qualify for the in-state tuition rate.

f. "Parent" means either or both parents of a student, any guardian of a student, or any person in a parental relationship to a student.

g. "Resident for tuition purposes" means a person who qualifies as provided in this section for the in-state tuition rate.

2. a. To qualify as a resident for tuition purposes:

1. A person or, if that person is a dependent child, his or her parent or parents must have established legal residence in this state and must have maintained legal residence in this state for at least 12 consecutive months immediately prior to his or her initial enrollment in an institution of higher education.

2. Every applicant for admission to an institution of higher education shall be required to make a statement as to his or her length of residence in the state and, further, shall establish that his or her presence or, if the applicant is a dependent child, the presence of his or her parent or parents in the state currently is, and during the requisite 12-month qualifying period was, for the purpose of maintaining a bona fide domicile, rather than for the purpose of maintaining a mere temporary residence or abode incident to enrollment in an institution of higher education.

b. However, with respect to a dependent child living with an adult relative other than the child's parent, such child may qualify as a resident for tuition purposes if the adult relative is a legal resident who has maintained legal residence in this state for at least 12 consecutive months immediately prior to the child's initial enrollment in an institution of higher education, provided the child has resided continuously with such relative for the 3 years immediately prior to the child's initial enrollment in an institution of higher education, during which time the adult relative has exercised day-to-day care, supervision, and control of the child.

c. The legal residence of a dependent child whose parents are divorced, separated, or otherwise living apart will be deemed to be this state if either parent is a legal resident of this state, regardless of which parent is entitled to claim, and does in fact claim, the minor as a dependent pursuant to federal individual income tax provisions.

d. A dependent child who is a United States citizen may not be denied classification as a resident for tuition based solely upon the immigration status of his or her parent.

3. a. An individual shall not be classified as a resident for tuition purposes and, thus, shall not be eligible to receive the in-state tuition rate until he or she has provided such evidence related to legal residence and its duration or, if that individual is a dependent child, evidence of his or her parent's legal residence and its duration, as may be required by law and by officials of the institution of higher education from which he or she seeks the in-state tuition rate.

b. Except as otherwise provided in this section, evidence of legal residence and its duration shall include clear and convincing documentation that residency in this state was for a minimum of 12 consecutive months prior to a student's initial enrollment in an institution of higher education.

c. Each institution of higher education shall affirmatively determine that an applicant who has been granted admission to that institution as a Florida resident meets the residency requirements of this section at the time of initial enrollment. The residency determination must be documented by the submission of written or electronic verification that includes two or more of the documents identified in this paragraph. No single piece of evidence shall be conclusive.

1. The documents must include at least one of the following:

- a. A Florida voter's registration card.
- b. A Florida driver's license.
- c. A State of Florida identification card.
- d. A Florida vehicle registration.
- e. Proof of a permanent home in

Florida which is occupied as a primary residence by the individual

or by the individual's parent if the individual is a dependent child.

f. Proof of a homestead exemption in Florida.

g. Transcripts from a Florida high school for multiple years if the Florida high school diploma or GED was earned within the last 12 months.

h. Proof of permanent full-time employment in Florida for at least 30 hours per week for a 12-month period.

2. The documents may include one or more of the following:

- a. A declaration of domicile in Florida.
- b. A Florida professional or occupational license.
- c. Florida incorporation.
- d. A document evidencing family ties in Florida.
- e. Proof of membership in a Florida-based

charitable or professional organization.

f. Any other documentation that supports the student's request for resident status, including, but not limited to, utility bills and proof of 12 consecutive months of payments; a lease agreement and proof of 12 consecutive months of payments; or an official state, federal, or court document evidencing legal ties to Florida.

4. With respect to a dependent child, the legal residence of the dependent child's parent or parents is prima facie evidence of the dependent child's legal residence, which evidence may be reinforced or rebutted, relative to the age and general circumstances of the dependent child, by the other evidence of legal residence required of or presented by the dependent child. However, the legal residence of a dependent child's parent or parents who are domiciled outside this state is not prima facie evidence of the dependent child's legal residence if that dependent child has lived in this state for 5 consecutive years prior to enrolling or reregistering at the institution of higher education at which resident status for tuition purposes is sought.

5. A person who physically resides in this state may be classified as a resident for tuition purposes if he or she marries a person who meets the 12-month residency requirement under subsection (2) and who is a legal resident of this state.

6. a. Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person who is classified as a nonresident for tuition purposes may become eligible for reclassification as a resident for tuition purposes if that person or, if that person is a dependent child, his or her parent presents clear and convincing documentation that supports permanent legal residency in this state for at least 12 consecutive months rather than temporary residency for the purpose of pursuing an education, such as documentation of full-time permanent employment for the prior 12 months or the purchase of a home in this state and residence therein for the prior 12 months while not enrolled in an institution of higher education.

b. If a person who is a dependent child and his or her parent move to this state while such child is a high school student and the child graduates from a high school in this state, the child may become eligible for reclassification as a resident for tuition purposes when the parent submits evidence that the parent qualifies for permanent residency.

c. If a person who is a dependent child and his or her parent move to this state after such child graduates from high school, the child may become eligible for re-classification as a resident for tuition purposes after the parent submits evidence that he or she has established legal residence in the state and has maintained legal residence in the state for at least 12 consecutive months.

d. A person who is classified as a nonresident for tuition purposes and who marries a legal resident of the state or marries a person who becomes a legal resident of the state may, upon becoming a legal resident of the state, become eligible for reclassification as a resident for tuition purposes upon submitting evidence of his or her own legal residency in the state, evidence of his or her marriage to a person who is a legal resident of the state,

and evidence of the spouse's legal residence in the state for at least 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the application for reclassification.

7. A person shall not lose his or her resident status for tuition purposes solely by reason of serving, or, if such person is a dependent child, by reason of his or her parent's or parents' serving, in the Armed Forces outside this state.

8. A person who has been properly classified as a resident for tuition purposes but who, while enrolled in an institution of higher education in this state, loses his or her resident tuition status because the person or, if he or she is a dependent child, the person's parent or parents establish domicile or legal residence elsewhere shall continue to enjoy the in-state tuition rate for a statutory grace period, which period shall be measured from the date on which the circumstances arose that culminated in the loss of resident tuition status and shall continue for 12 months. However, if the 12-month grace period ends during a semester or academic term for which such former resident is enrolled, such grace period shall be extended to the end of that semester or academic term.

9. Any person who ceases to be enrolled at or who graduates from an institution of higher education while classified as a resident for tuition purposes and who subsequently abandons his or her domicile in this state shall be permitted to reenroll at an institution of higher education in this state as a resident for tuition purposes without the necessity of meeting the 12-month durational requirement of this section if that person has reestablished his or her domicile in this state within 12 months of such abandonment and continuously maintains the reestablished domicile during the period of enrollment. The benefit of this subsection shall not be accorded more than once to any one person.

10. The following persons shall be classified as residents for tuition

a. Active duty members of the Armed Services of the United States residing or stationed in this state, their spouses, and dependent children, and active drilling members of the Florida National Guard.

b. Active duty members of the Armed Services of the United States and their spouses and dependents attending a public community college or state university within 50 miles of the military establishment where they are stationed, if such military establishment is within a county contiguous to Florida.

c. United States citizens living on the Isthmus of Panama, who have completed 12 consecutive months of college work at the Florida State University Panama Canal Branch, and their spouses and dependent children.

d. Full-time instructional and administrative personnel employed by state public schools and institutions of higher education and their spouses and dependent children.

e. Students from Latin America and the Caribbean who receive scholarships from the federal or state government. Any student classified pursuant to this paragraph shall attend, on a full-time basis, a Florida institution of higher education.

f. Southern Regional Education Board's Academic Common Market graduate students attending Florida's state universities.

g. Full-time employees of state agencies or political subdivisions of the state when the student fees are paid by the state agency or political subdivision for the purpose of job-related law enforcement or corrections training.

h. McKnight Doctoral Fellows and Finalists who are United States citizens.

i. United States citizens living outside the United States who are teaching at a Department of Defense Dependent School or in an American International School and who enroll in a graduate level education program which leads to a Florida teaching certificate.

j. Active duty members of the Canadian military residing or stationed in this state under the North American Air Defense (NORAD) agreement, and their spouses and dependent children,

attending a community college or state university within 50 miles of the military establishment where they are stationed.

k. Active duty members of a foreign nation's military who are serving as liaison officers and are residing or stationed in this state, and their spouses and dependent children, attending a community college or state university within 50 miles of the military establishment where the foreign liaison officer is stationed.

11. Once a student has been classified as a resident for tuition purposes, an institution of higher education to which the student transfers is not required to reevaluate the classification unless inconsistent information suggests that an erroneous classification was made or the student's situation has changed. However, the student must have attended the institution making the initial classification within the prior 12 months, and the residency classification must be noted on the student's transcript. The Higher Education Coordinating Council shall consider issues related to residency determinations and make recommendations relating to efficiency and effectiveness of current law.

12. Each institution of higher education shall establish a residency appeal committee comprised of at least three members to consider student appeals of residency determinations, in accordance with the institution's official appeal process. The residency appeal committee must render to the student the final residency determination in writing. The institution must advise the student of the reasons for the determination.

13. The State Board of Education and the Board of Governors shall adopt rules to implement this section.

History.—s. 2, ch. 2002-270; s. 400, ch. 2002-387; s. 14, ch. 2004-230; s. 132, ch. 2007-217; s. 7, ch. 2009-60; s. 2, ch. 2009-123; s. 10, ch. 2010-155.

Note.—Section 21, ch. 2010-70, directs the Division of Statutory Revision to prepare a reviser's bill to substitute the term "Florida College System institution" for the terms "Florida college," "community college," and "junior college" where those terms appear in the Florida K-20 Education Code.