

Sonny Perdue
GOVERNOR



Timothy A. Connell
PRESIDENT

May 26, 2009

RE: Accel Program Changes

Dear Colleagues:

As you know, the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) is responsible for the administration of the Accel Program. Our ongoing goal, as with all programs we administer, is to operate the program as efficiently and accurately as possible. To that end, we will be implementing several significant procedural and process changes to the Accel Program effective for all school terms subsequent to the fall 2009 term.

Effective with all terms after fall 2009, the following changes in application processing and certification will be implemented:

- All student applications for the Accel Program must be submitted online by the high school.
- Paper applications will no longer be available for download and will not be accepted for any term after fall of 2009. If any paper applications are received by GSFC for terms after fall of 2009 they will be returned to the high school so that the high school can make an online Accel application.
- All high school and college approvals, certifications and invoices must be completed and submitted online via the GSFC STARS and/or SURFER systems as appropriate.
- The “.99999” high school course numbering convention is being discontinued. All high school coursework must have a valid Georgia Department of Education issued course number in order to be included in the Accel Course Directory (which may be viewed at http://www.gsfc.org/main/publishing/pdf/2005/accel_courses.pdf).

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- The "Consult College" course designation is being discontinued. To qualify for payment, all college courses taken under Accel must have a match from the list of high school courses included in the Accel Course Directory for 2010. No payment will be made for courses not listed in the Accel Course Directory.

In order to ensure a successful transition to the online only process, GSFC is taking the following actions:

- GSFC will begin an aggressive communication campaign to ensure that all stakeholders are aware of the upcoming changes.
- GSFC will be contacting all eligible high schools to assess GSFC system access and training needs.
- GSFC is updating the Accel Program training materials, tutorials, and guides related to the online Accel process and will be publishing updates in the near future. Additionally, we plan to hold various training sessions as needed.
- GSFC staff is working with key stakeholders including the Georgia Department of Education (DOE), the University System of Georgia (USG), Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) and Private Colleges to update the Accel Course Directory so that it can be as accurate as possible.

Thank you for your cooperation and support as we work to implement these changes. If you have any immediate questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Tracy Ireland, Vice President of Financial Aid Operations at (770) 724-9066 or via email at tracyi@gsfc.org.

Sincerely,



Timothy A. Connell

TAC:mlc