

Palomar College
Financial Aid, Veterans & Scholarship Services

Ability to Benefit Requirement
As of 3/4/09

In accordance with Title IV Federal Financial Assistance Regulations, a student must meet one of the following eligibility criteria to be considered:

Criteria A:

High School Diploma (note: For the state of California, the student must now pass the California Exit Exam “CHSEE.” If the student does not have a diploma or the high school transcript does not reflect graduate, the student does not meet this criteria) or;

Criteria B:

GED “General Education Development” Certification or;

Criteria C:

Pass the California High School Proficiency Exam (CHSPE) or;

Criteria D: Effective 8/14/2008

Complete satisfactorily (C grade or better) 6 credit hours of equivalent coursework applicable toward a degree or certificate or (note: Financial Aid Office will verify this with Evaluations Office);

Criteria E:

Taken and pass the established Ability to Benefit components under the Assessment Test. (note: Student has to be at least 18 years of age in order for this to be recognized).

Students under the Age of 18 years of age:

- The State of California Education Code section 48200 states that the compulsory age of public high school attendance is up to 18 years of age.
- The California Education Code (section 48200 & 48222) recognizes students enrolled in private full-time day school by persons capable of teaching as exempt from the public high school attendance. Note: This means that if the student is under the age of 18 and is attending a private high school, he/she is meeting the compulsory attendance requirement.
- The California Education Code is silent on a matter relating to home schooling and does not recognize it as a private school. Therefore, a student that graduates from home school and is under the age of 18 is NOT exempt from the compulsory age of attendance. This means that the student under the age of 18 can only meet the eligibility criteria for financial aid by Option C or D.

Status Obtained through:

- A question is asked on the FAFSA (i.e., 2009-2010) – “When you begin college in the 2009-2010 school year, what will be your high school completion status.”

Ineligibility Status and Possible Repayment:

- If the student does not meet one of the eligibility criteria options, then the student is not eligible for federal financial aid.
- IF it is determine that in prior years that student indicated on their FAFSA that he/she did meet one of the criteria and is now determined that he/she did not, the student will be considered ineligible for the years they were paid for and will be considered as a repayment to the U.S. Department of Education. Student is required to immediately repay all funds previously received.
Note: IF the student meets the A, B, C or E criteria identified for ability to benefit, the eligibility applies to the period after meeting the criteria. Example: Student passes the ATB test or completes 6 units in Fall 2008, but had received financial aid in Fall 07 and Spring 08, the student still needs to repay for that school year prior to meeting one of the options.
- Under criteria D, the 6 units of satisfactory coursework must be taken after 8/14/2008 (i.e., starting Fall 08).