The U.S. Department of Education established new regulations which reduce the duration of a student’s eligibility to receive Federal Pell Grant from 18 full-time semesters to 12 full-time semesters or 6 years (or its equivalent) effective July 1, 2012 for the 2012-2013 academic year.

Students who plan to transfer to complete a bachelor’s degree, or are indecisive about their educational goals, may wish to save their Pell Grant eligibility. Planning ahead is key for students, as Pell Grant lifetime eligibility includes all years Pell was ever received at all colleges ever attended. Students who want to save their Pell Grant must think ahead and notify the Financial Aid Office by submitting a signed Decline Pell Grant form. Requests made after a student has received Pell funds CANNOT be honored.

The student’s eligibility for other aid is not affected by this new regulation, and the Board of Governor’s Fee Waiver (BOGFW) will waive enrollment fees for students who are eligible.

Students can log on to the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) Student Access website using their Federal Student Aid PIN to view their Lifetime Eligibility Used (LEU). For additional information on the new Pell regulation, view ‘Calculating Pell Grant Lifetime Eligibility Used’ on the Department of Education website, under Federal Student Aid.

Resources:
www.nslds.ed.gov

P E L L  G R A N T  L I F E T I M E  E L I G I B I L I T Y  U S E D

CAL GRANTS TAKE A HIT

Maximum Cal Grant A & B Tuition and Fee awards have been reduced from $9708 to $9223, a total reduction of 5% for the 2012-2013 year. The California Student Aid Commission has already posted the 2012 Eligibility Changes as a result of the 2012 Budget Act; it states that Cal Grant A & B will again be reduced by 2% in the 2013-2014 year, bringing the maximum awards from $9223 to $9084. Cal Grants may be renewed for up to four years of full-time enrollment. Students can check their application status on the California Student Aid Commission’s website under ‘Web Grants 4 Students’. New students must file their 2013-2014 FAFSA application by March 2nd in order to be considered for the Cal Grant.

Resource:
www.csac.ca.gov
The policy of the Butte-Glenn Community College District is to provide financial aid assistance to those need-eligible students who maintain consistent progress towards an educational goal.

Three Federal standards are used to assess Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP): (1) the cumulative GPA; (2) cumulative Pace (number of units completed versus units attempted); and (3) overall Timeframe. "Timeframe" is the maximum units allowed to complete the student’s educational goal of a transfer major, an Associate of Arts or Associate of Sciences degree, or Certificate of Achievement. These standards are reviewed at the end of each semester and summer term (as applicable) and are subject to change. Notifications about SAP are sent by email to the student’s Butte College email account. Students who fail to maintain these standards are subject to delayed disbursements and potential loss of their financial aid eligibility if lack of academic progress continues beyond one semester. The Financial Aid Office has developed resources to guide students through everything they need to know about financial aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress. See below.

Resource:  www.butte.edu/fa
Click on:  ►2012-13 Student Handbook
►Policies and Mission

### CALIFORNIA DREAM

Thanks to the California Dream Act (AB 130 and 131), a college education is now more accessible and affordable to some undocumented students.

Previous legislation (AB 540) made AB 540 students eligible for in-state tuition at California's public colleges and universities. With the California Dream Act, AB540 students at community colleges are now eligible to apply for:
- Privately-funded scholarships
- Board of Governors Fee Waivers

(BOGFW effective January 1, 2013).
- Assistance from EOPS, CARE or CalWORKS (beginning January 1, 2013)
- State financial aid including Cal Grants and Chafee Grants (for 2013-14 academic year)

Students may complete a Dream Act Application at https://dream.csac.ca.gov/. This is a California-only application that asks the same information as FAFSA but NO INFORMATION is shared with the federal government.

### 6 STEPS TO FINANCIAL AID

To help our students gain a better understanding of the process of applying for financial aid, our office has developed "6 Steps to Financial Aid". Here we list the steps a FAFSA goes through from the moment a student submits their FAFSA to the moment when they receive funds (if eligible).

Our office wants students to be informed consumers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary of GPA and PACE Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Units Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-17.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ACT

Additional guidance is available at http://www.csac.ca.gov/dream_act.asp

New laws make it more affordable for AB 540 students to go to college!