

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE 2012-2013 FAFSA PROCESS:

Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, all AAU students are encouraged to use the **IRS Data Retrieval** tool during the initial filing of the FAFSA (***Free application for Federal Student Aid***) or when subsequent corrections are made to the FAFSA application. The IRS Data Retrieval tool allows FAFSA applicants and parents the ability to transfer their income information from the Internal Revenue Service to the FAFSA. The **accuracy** provided by the use of the IRS Data retrieval system will save students and parents invaluable time in completing the federal application. The IRS Tool is expected to be available beginning February 1, 2012.

To be eligible you must:

- have filed a federal return with the IRS

 - * IRS matching will be available 1-2 weeks after taxes are filed electronically*

 - *IRS matching will be available 6-8 weeks after filing by mail*

- have a valid Social Security number

- have a Federal Aid Personal Identification Number (PIN)

- have an unchanged marital status as of December 31 of the prior year

You are ineligible to use the IRS Match if:

- you have not filed a tax return or will not file a tax return

- you don't have a valid SSN

- your marital status changes after December 31, 2011

- you filed a foreign tax form

- you amended your tax return

- your tax status is Married, Filing Separately

Estimating taxes and FAFSA correction

We recognize that many students and parents will not have their federal tax returns completed by the March 2, 2012, Cal Grant deadline. These families can still complete the FAFSA application using estimated income but a correction will need to be done after the taxes are filed. On April 1, 2012, the Department of Education will send email reminders to filers, who chose to estimate, to go back and update the information using the IRS Data Retrieval tool.

Students Selected for Verification

If your FAFSA is selected for verification, personal copies of tax returns can no longer be accepted as documentation. If you opted not to use the IRS DATA RETRIEVAL tool, you must request for an IRS Return transcripts at 1-800-908-9946. In addition, if you are a filer with Amended Tax returns you will also need to turn in a "Tax Account Transcript". For more information about the IRS Data Retrieval tool, please visit www.fafsa.ed.gov