

EP 6.204 Student Financial Assistance Program						
Campus	Office	Section	Page	Proposed Revision	Comment/Rationale	Response
UH Hilo	Financial Aid				My first suggestion is that those who are actually responsible for carrying out the EP be involved in the drafting of the proposed language.	Everyone is being invited to comment and help to revise the policy.
UH Hilo	Financial Aid				Second, it would be helpful if the purpose of the proposed changes was communicated in the EP. It is difficult to understand what is trying to be accomplished by the section added as well as actual language being used: <i>"To the extent possible, the University of Hawai'i strives to maintain consistent levels of financial assistance for students who maintain eligibility criteria for all years of enrollment in their approved academic degree or certificate program, provided there are no significant changes to a student's corresponding academic, athletic, or financial eligibility. Due to limited amounts of funding in the various financial assistance programs, all sources of financial aid (Federal, State and Institutional) will be considered in order to renew students' awarded levels of financial assistance in subsequent years. Therefore, eligible students are required to reapply for financial assistance annually by filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)."</i>	The language has been revised.
UH Hilo	Financial Aid				Two of the biggest flaws in this policy as written are as follows: 1) Because of its placement in the EP, the implication is that it requires the completion of the FAFSA "in order to renew students' awarded levels" for all types of scholarships below where the statement is placed. This means that it could be interpreted that International students would need to complete a FAFSA when they are not eligible for Federal Student Aid in order to receive a renewal of an International Student Scholarship.	Change made to clarify that only students eligible to received federal financial aid are required to fill in the FAFSA.
					2) This statement requires students to "reapply for financial assistance annually by filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid..." However, the policy does not require that students APPLY with the FAFSA to receive the initial merit scholarship. Is that the intent? You can get an initial merit scholarship without the FAFSA but to get a "renewal" you must complete the FAFSA? So to get around this, institutions could just not make any merit scholarships renewable?	Change made to clarify that a student cannot receive the Achievement Scholarship for a consecutive year without filling in the FAFSA
UH Hilo	Financial Aid				Depending on what is actually trying to be accomplished, I would suggest striking this entire statement at the top of the document and then just add the FAFSA requirement into each individual scholarship type that you believe should require a student to complete a FAFSA. Another option would be to put your "why" statement here in easy to understand language and then add the FAFSA requirement to each scholarship fund as applicable. Either make the FAFSA a requirement of the scholarship or not. Do not make it a requirement for subsequent renewals but not a requirement for the initial award, that makes no sense.	Based on comments from athletics and admissions officers, it was decided that only the renewal or consecutive awarding of the merit scholarships would require the FAFSA. The language was revised to make it clearer.
UHM	Enrollment Mgmt	III.A.6.4	5	re: Renewal of Achievement Scholarships requires completion of the FAFSA for those students eligible to complete it.	We are very concerned about creating this as a requirement for students to retain their Achievement Scholarships.  1. This EP revision risks adding more complications to the student pathway and interrupting their ability to persist. According to UHM data: AY1920: 38.32% of students awarded a merit scholarship did not complete a FAFSA AY2021: 34.85% of students awarded a merit scholarship did not complete a FAFSA AY2122: 30.77% of students awarded a merit scholarship did not complete a FAFSA I believe that adding this requirement for these students could mean we'll first see students drop off from this third of the first-year class.	We recognize the concern, but the policy change will allow for wider spread use of scarce financial aid resources.
UHM	Enrollment Mgmt	III.A.6.4	5		2. This EP does not define well enough what it means by "completing the FAFSA". If a FAFSA is completed by rejected by the Feds, is that considered complete? Currently, we still have students this Fall who have not completed their requirements to be offered aid from our office. Some students are quite challenged to complete requirements, while others may not feel compelled to do so since they may only be eligible for loans and rather pay out of pocket.	The language has been clarified.
UHM	Enrollment Mgmt	III.A.6.4	5		3. Merit scholarships at UHM are still very decentralized, which makes managing this process against checking for a FAFSA an administrative challenge that we are not yet prepared to handle. The STAR Giving Tree tool would need more advancements to make this requirement feasible to execute.	Will work with STAR to comply by aid year '23-'24
UHM	Enrollment Mgmt	III.A.6.4	5		4. Where do Undocumented/DACA students fall in this EP revision? Are they eligible for exemption? That would be an important piece to define.	have added to definitions section
UHM	Enrollment Mgmt	III.A.6.4	5		5. We also share a grave concern about the overall staffing and workload this revision will require.	Am unsure of what workload issues
UHM	Enrollment Mgmt	III.A.6.4	5		In summary, we would really like the opportunity to discuss this revision more deeply and understand the reasons behind the revision. There may be a way to serve the intention behind this revision and minimize the potential interruptions that we anticipate will happen with this revision as is.	available to discuss - contact avpsa@hawaii.edu