Effective July 01, 2012, students are eligible to receive Pell grant for up to 12 full time semesters. This applies to all students regardless of when they received their first Pell grant. A student attending as a half-time (6 units) student is considered as having used half of a semester for purposes of tracking the Pell grant limits.

- For example, if your maximum Pell Grant award amount for the 2010-2011 school year was $5,550, but you only received $2,775 because you were only enrolled for one semester, or because you were paid as a half-time student 2 semesters, you would have used 50% of your maximum award for that year.

- If in the following school year, you were enrolled only three-quarter time, you would have used 75% of your maximum award for that year. Together, you would have received 125% out of the total 600% lifetime limit.

Ability to Benefit (ATB)

Effective July 1, 2012, new students who are enrolling in a program of study must have a High School Diploma or its equivalent in order to be eligible for financial aid. Students who completed a home schooling curriculum are considered to have received a High School Diploma or its equivalent. You will no longer have the option of becoming eligible for federal student aid by passing an approved Ability to Benefit test or completing at least six credit hours of post-secondary education. Students who qualified for financial aid (prior to the July 1, 2012) by passing the ATB test or completing 6 credit hours will continue to be eligible for aid due to a grandfathering clause.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) & Course Repeatability

Starting with the 2011-2012 academic year, federal regulations have added “Pace Quantitative Standard”, a new element to monitor academic progress for financial aid students. Pace Quantitative Standard: Maintain a cumulative completion rate of 66.7% (2/3) of all attempted units and a current completion rate of 66.7% (2/3) at the end of every semester. “Completing” units is defined as receiving a grade of A, B, C, D, P.

Students repeating courses will be allowed to continue to benefit from financial aid based on a new course repeatability regulation: Units in which a student is enrolled will be counted for financial aid payment as long as the student has never passed the course. Passing grades are: A, B, C, D, P.

If the student passes a course and wishes to repeat it to improve his/her grade; financial aid will allow one repetition after passing the course. Courses from which a student withdraws are not considered repeated coursework.

Refer to the Mission College catalog for the College’s course repeatability policy since they are different.
Pell and Loan Payment Schedule

Pell Grant and Loans will be divided into eight payments per year, four payments in the Fall semester in increments of 40%, 20%, 20%, 20% and four payments in the Spring Semester in increments of 40%, 20%, 20%, 20%.

- Payments are issued to students once eligibility has been determined.
- Payments are issued once per month (on the HigherOne Debit Card or ACH Processing).

Fall 2012 Payment Dates* are:
- 8/22/12
- 9/21/12
- 11/09/12
- 12/07/12

Spring 2013 Payment Dates* are:
- 1/23/13
- 3/08/13
- 4/12/13
- 5/10/13

Summer 2013 Payment Date* is:
- 06/21/13

* All dates are subject to change

HigherOne Debit Cards

Our district has gone green and replaced paper checks mailed to your home address with our HigherOne Debit Card (MY WVMCCD Card). All students will receive a card in the mail. Financial Aid payments also go to the HigherOne Debit card.

If you activate, please choose between:
- Debit card—your refund will be loaded within 24 hours of processing.
- ACH Processing—your refund is transferred automatically to your personal account for immediate use within 24 hours of processing.

ATM’s are located on both Mission College (Welcome Center lobby) and WVC (bookstore) campuses for your convenience.

Please activate your card as soon as you receive it. Instructions will be provided. Even if you are not currently expecting a refund from the Mission College Financial Aid Office, we may have a refund for you in the future.

California Dream Act Application (AB 131)

"Assembly Bill (AB) 540 was passed in 2001 to allow non-resident students in California to pay resident fees at California’s public colleges and universities. In October 2011, AB 131 was signed and allows students eligible for AB 540 to also apply for state financial aid like the University of California grants, State University Grants, and Board of Governor’s Fee Waiver for 2012-13 school year and Cal Grants for the 2013-14 school year.

The California Dream Act Application is the financial aid application for AB 540 eligible students." AB 131 is effective January 1, 2013.

Complete application instructions and the Dream Act Application are available online at: www.caldreamact.org.