Current Year Aid to Pay a Prior Year Balance

Summary/Purpose: The use of current year federal financial aid to pay for a prior year balance.

Per federal regulation effective July 1, 2008, federal financial aid for the current award year (Fall through Summer terms) cannot be used to pay Bursar charges from a prior year unless the balance is $200 or less. A student authorizes payment toward a previous balance of up to $200 in minor institutional charges when accepting his/her Financial Aid Award Notification online.

Beginning with 2010-11, new federal clarification was provided. Evaluation of prior charges must be done by payment period.

- If there is a Direct Loan in the current financial aid package, then the “prior year” is considered any prior loan periods AND this definition then applies to all Title IV federal aid in the payment period - both loan and non-loan aid. (Since summer aid is awarded separately from Fall/Spring, then any summer package of federal aid that contains a Direct Loan cannot be used to pay any remaining charges from Fall/Spring, even though these terms are in the same academic year.)

- If there is no Direct Loan, then the “prior year” is considered an award year.

The $200 allowance for current Title IV funds to pay for prior charges is only for the most recent “prior year” (award year or loan period depending on whether or not the student has a Direct Loan). It is not to be used against older charges.