

NOTIFICATION OF SELECTION

If selected, students will be notified of the verification requirement by a comment on their SAR (Student Aid Report) and by the Financial Aid Office Notification from SWCC (sent to the student's POPULI).

Students will also be notified of the verification requirements through the student "POPULI". Here, they will find a list of any "to-do" items required to complete the verification process.

. VERIFICATION PROCESS

- The Verification process ensures that information entered on an applicant's FAFSA is accurate.
- Furthermore, it helps schools disburse federal funds in a fair and equitable manner to benefit all eligible students. The Department of Education selects a certain percentage of an institution's students for the verification process. **SWCC** can also select students for verification if there is conflicting data between the FAFSA and/or tax data. **Using the IRS Data Retrieval tool on an applicant's initial FAFSA submission significantly reduces an applicant's chance of being selected for verification, thus reducing the delay in awarding and disbursing financial aid to a student's account.**

IRS DATA RETRIEVAL TOOL

Over the past few years, the Department of Education has gradually implemented a new online feature called the IRS Data Retrieval tool.

This secure online feature enables an applicant and his/her parents or spouse to view, request and transfer IRS tax data directly into the [FAFSA application online](#). Instead of manually entering in tax information from the previous calendar year, or estimating this information, applicants now have a much more accurate tool for reporting their financial data.

Most notably, the IRS Data Retrieval tool will greatly reduce a student's chance of being selected for the Verification process, which delays the disbursement of Financial Aid funds to a student's account (more details below) until it is complete.

The IRS Data retrieval tool will streamline the financial aid application process by providing a more accurate analysis of an applicant's Expected Family Contribution (EFC), and providing a more efficient means to fulfill Verification Requirements. (These regulatory changes are given in subpart E of part 668 of title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations).

Eligibility

SWCC encourages **all** eligible first-year and continuing students to complete the FAFSA online and to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool. Students and/or parents are eligible if they:

- have a valid US Social Security Number (not all 6's, 8's or 0's)
- have Federal Student Aid ID login information
- have had no marital status change after Dec. 31, 2013
- Have already filed tax return with the IRS (either electronically or via paper form) at the time of completing the FAFSA.
- have not filed an amended tax return with IRS for 2013 (Form 1040X)
- filed taxes as “married filing jointly” if married; or, filed as “Single” or “Head of Household” if unmarried ****Note – if unmarried and living together, the Retrieval Tool cannot be used; IRS tax transcripts must be requested****
- did not file a foreign (or Puerto Rican) tax return