

**July 13, 2011**

Dear Bulldogs,

The Alabama A & M Office of Student Financial Aid is committed to providing you with the absolute highest level of customer service and availability to assist you in financing your college education. We understand that, in today's uncertain economy, the price of a college education can be one of the most expensive endeavors that most students and families will ever undertake. As director, my goal is to make sure that you are given insight and clarification regarding the financial aid process.

It is important that you must complete and submit your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online, each January, so that we can retrieve your results via the federal processor, by our priority processing date, which is, March 1 of each year. It is also critical that you submit any requested or required documentation as soon as you are notified to do so. Failure to do both of these will result in delays in processing your file.

**Essential information:**

The U. S. Dept. of Education has implemented a new Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Policy which will go into effect July 1, 2011. This new policy may be viewed on the AAMU Office of Student Financial Aid website (<http://www.aamu.edu/Admissions/fincialaid>). We do recommend that you review this new policy in its entirety.

**Some highlights of this new policy are as follows:**

- Any student who fails to meet qualitative and/or pace standard requirements with 60 or more attempted hours will not qualify for financial aid and there is NO probationary period under the new federal standard.
- Transfer students must meet the same satisfactory academic progress requirements as current AAMU students. All transfer hours attempted/completed will be included in the attempted/completed hours calculation.
- To be in compliance with federal regulations, students must give priority to using refunds to purchase books and supplies relative to coursework.

**Also, please note the following information:**

- If your financial aid file is incomplete, please be financially prepared to make payment arrangements with the Collections Office.
- We will welcome new freshmen and transfer students on campus beginning August 13, 2011. Registration begins on August 15, 2011 for undergraduate and graduate students.

Thank you for joining the Bulldog family and entrusting Alabama A&M to assist in realizing your academic aspirations. We trust that this information is useful and hope that the 2011- 2012 academic year is a productive and rewarding one. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or need additional information regarding student financial aid. We are located on campus in Patton Hall, room 211. Our office hours are 8 a.m.-5p.m., Monday through Friday and our phone number is 256-372-5400. I also personally invite you to email your comments, questions and concerns to our email address; [financialaid@aamu.edu](mailto:financialaid@aamu.edu). I especially welcome your feedback regarding anything my office can do to better serve you.

Best Wishes for a great year,

**Darryl Jackson**

Director: Office of Student Financial Aid

Alabama A & M University

“Service is Sovereignty”