

# Financial Aid Enrollment Freeze Dates

## ***NEW - Important Notice for Students receiving Financial Aid Assistance Beginning Spring 2020***

Students are awarded financial aid funds based on their enrollment status (the number of credit hours they are enrolled). The more hours they are enrolled, the higher their financial aid award will be.

### Enrollment Status

Full Time = 12 + credit hours

Three Quarter Time = 9 - 11 credit hours

Half Time = 6 - 8 credit hours

Less than Half Time = 1 - 5 credit hours

In the past, this status was determined and updated at many points in the semester. This allowed students to add classes late in the semester to increase their enrollment status for financial aid. Beginning Spring 2020, in accordance with federal regulations, Richmond Community College will establish a “freeze date”. This date will determine a student’s enrollment status **only once** for the entire semester. This is the date we take a “snapshot” of students’ credit hours to establish their enrollment status for financial aid eligibility.

Example: **Richmond Community College has a Spring term start of January 3, 2020 with “freeze date” of January 22, 2020**

Gracie begins attendance on **01/03/20** with 6 credit hours, but adds an additional course for 3 credit hours on **01/24/20**. Gracie’s enrollment status for Title IV purposes= 6 credit hours

This change does not affect other financial aid policies already in place. For example,

- Financial aid will only pay for courses that are required for the student’s program of study.
- Students withdrawing from all courses prior to the 61% point of the semester may be required to repay funds.

To best serve the students under this new guideline, please advise them to schedule all classes prior to the freeze date even if they are late starting courses.