



## **IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE ABILITY TO BENEFIT TEST**

In order to receive Federal financial aid, a student **MUST** have a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent. The Department of Education considers the following to be equivalent to a high school diploma:

- a General Education Development (GED) certificate, or
- completion of homeschooling, or
- completion of an Ability To Benefit (ATB) test, or completion of 6.0 degree applicable units **AND** enrollment in an approved program of study **PRIOR TO JULY 1, 2012**.

### **WHAT IF I DO NOT POSSESS A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR ITS EQUIVALENT?**

If you do not have a high school diploma or its equivalent, you are **NOT** eligible for Federal financial aid.

### **WHAT IF I MEET ONE OF THE EQUIVALENCIES?**

If you have taken and passed an Ability To Benefit test **OR** completed 6.0 degree applicable units **AND** were enrolled in an eligible program of study prior to July 1, 2012, **YOU MUST NOTIFY** the Financial Aid Office for a review of your eligibility. You will be required to provide proof of your high school diploma equivalency.

### **CAN I STILL TAKE THE ATB TEST?**

No. College of the Canyons no longer offers an Ability To Benefit test.

### **WHAT IF I NEVER TOOK THE ATB TEST OR COMPLETED 6.0 UNITS BY JULY 1, 2012?**

Students without a high school diploma, who fail to complete the ATB test requirement or complete 6.0 degree applicable units by June 30, 2012, are ineligible until they acquire a GED.

### **WHERE CAN I GET INFORMATION ABOUT THE GED?**

For more information on how to obtain your GED, please visit College of the Canyons' Continuing Education website at [www.canyons.edu/Offices/ContinuingEducation/Pages/GED-and-Success-Skills.aspx](http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/ContinuingEducation/Pages/GED-and-Success-Skills.aspx)

For more information, please contact the Financial Aid Office at:  
(661)362-3215 or [finaid@canyons.edu](mailto:finaid@canyons.edu)