

# Counseling in Financial Aid

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# Counselors in Fin. Aid at LBCC

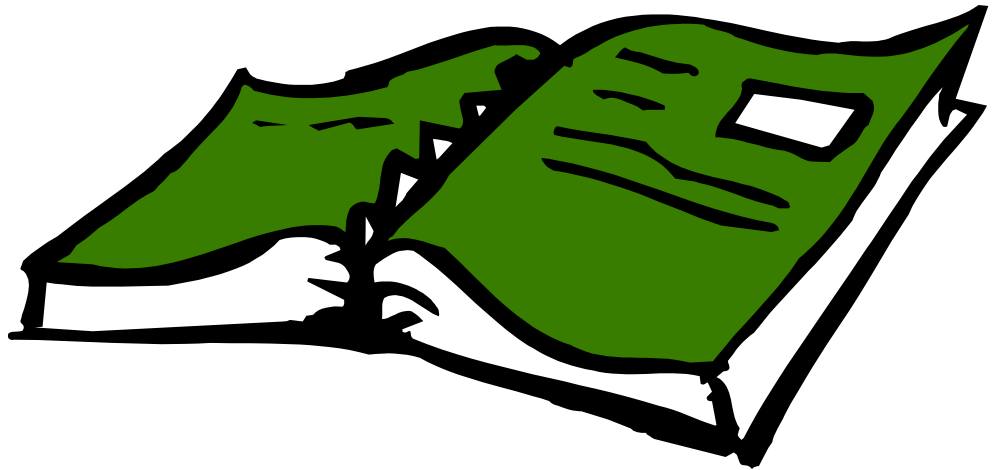
- Began with the creation of the Financial Aid Office in the late 1960s
  - Coordinator/counselor
  - Counselor
- Grew to three counselors by mid-70s
- 1980s budget cuts
  - One counselor retired
  - Hired two advisors

# Counselors in Fin. Aid at LBCC

- 1990s BFAP staffing allowance
  - Converted one advisor position to counselor
  - Gained a counselor by reassignment
  - Created new counseling position
- Strong support from Counseling Office
- Current status
  - 4 tenured counselors
  - 1 advisor
  - 3 part time counselors

# Qualifications

- Meet the minimum qualifications for counselors set by the institution
  - Masters in counseling
  - Equivalent masters degree



# Responsibilities

- Academic advising
- Career and personal counseling
- Referrals to college services
  - Tutoring
  - Personal counseling
  - Career Planning
  - Job Placement
- Attend regular counselor staff meetings

# Responsibilities

- In the Financial Aid Office
  - Professional judgment
  - Verification
  - Petitions for Extension
  - Petitions for Reinstatement
  - Preparation of Educational Plans
  - Income reductions
  - Petitions for Independent Status
  - Monitor student progress

# Faculty Community Service

- Significantly affects integration of the FA Programs into the college community
  - Curriculum committee
  - Scholarship committee
  - Study Abroad committee
  - Program reviews
  - Accreditation
  - Flex Day presentations

# Example: Petition for Extension

- Required when 60 units completed
- Two counselors review if over 100 units
- Stu lists objective and year's classes
- Deduct:
  - Remedial units (maximum of 30)
  - ESL units
  - Non-transfer units (if student's objective is to transfer)

# Example: Petition for Extension

- Financial aid counselors review
- Can approve or disapprove based on the student's educational objective
- Can call student in for an ed plan
- Can help students with degree objective choices and preparation
- Don't have to rely on another office for Petition for Extension evaluation

# Why Counselors in Financial Aid?

- **Advantages**

- Don't have to rely on another office for academic evaluations or requirements
- Counselors have specific training to help economically/educationally disadvantaged students
- Counselors bring a student-centered vision to the Financial Aid Office

# Why Counselors in Financial Aid?

- **Advantages**

- Quote from what's his name regarding integration of college students
- Integration into the college community
- Expertise when doing outreach
- Student-centered input into financial aid policies and procedures
- Student advocates

# Why Counselors in Financial Aid?

- **Disadvantages**

- Expensive
- Work less than 40 hours per week
- Difficult to obtain
- May force the financial aid office to re-examine itself

# How to Get a Counselor

- Patient--multi year plan
- Develop a rationale (need analysis)
  - Workload needs
  - Student retention and success
- Build support throughout the college
  - Counseling
  - Academic Senate
- Find the funding
- Never give up

# Questions, Comments?

