

HIGH SCHOOL CERTIFICATION OR EQUIVALENT

Name _____

Date _____

Student ID # _____

Social Security # XXX-XX- _____

The United States Department of Education requires that all students who receive funds from financial aid programs must have one of the following in order to qualify:

- A high school diploma, and for 2006 or later graduates, pass the California high school CAHSEE exam (attach a copy)
- A high school diploma from another country
- A GED
- Pass a High School Proficiency exam (the CA Certificate of Completion is not eligible)
- An AA or AS degree
- Complete 6 units of college coursework, acceptable towards a degree or certificate
- Pass an "Ability to Benefit" exam

****You may have received this notice because there is a *discrepancy* with the status of your high school diploma. You may have indicated the high school diploma completion status *as none of the above* on your current FAFSA application or the Admissions and Records Department does not have an updated high school diploma on file. Please contact the Admissions and Records Department and update your high school diploma discrepancy. You must contact our office as soon as this discrepancy is resolved.**

1. Ability to Benefit Test (Math and English)

To schedule a testing date, call the Assessment Center, at Santiago Canyon College, room E-302 (714) 628-4812, Present this testing referral form and a California Driver's License or other photo ID when you report for testing. You will be notified of the results. If you passed an "Ability to Benefit" exam at another accredited institution, you are not required to re-test, but must submit a copy of the test results to Santiago Canyon College Financial Aid office.

You are encouraged to enroll in basic skills courses to improve your reading and language proficiency before you test. Academic counselors are available in the Counseling Center, room D106 (714) 628-4802 for guidance. Call the Academic Success Center (714) 628-4830 or the Tutoring and Math Centers at (714) 628-4795 for additional help.

2. Complete 6 units of college coursework, acceptable towards a degree or certificate. Units must show on the Rancho Santiago College District Admissions and Records system. If you completed the units at another college, have them transferred. **Make an appointment with an academic counselor in the Counseling Center to verify that you have completed 6 units of college credit that can be used towards a degree or certificate. Call (714) 628-4802.**

COUNSELOR CERTIFICATION:

Name of Student _____ Date _____

Social Security # _____ Student ID _____

The above named student has successfully completed 6 units of college coursework that is acceptable towards a degree or certificate. These units appear on the academic transcript of Rancho Santiago Community College District.

Academic Counselor name: _____ Department _____

Signature of Academic Counselor _____ Telephone # _____

*******RETURN THE COMPLETED COUNSELOR CERTIFICATION TO THE SANTIAGO CANYON FINANCIAL AID OFFICE*******

INSTRUCTIONS ON ELIGIBILITY OF PAYMENT FROM FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS:

1. *You may be paid for the semester you pass the ATB exam* and for future semesters, but not retroactive for work already completed. Direct Loans may be certified for an entire academic year once the exam is passed.
2. *If you achieve a high school diploma or GED during a semester* you are attending college, you are eligible for financial aid funds for the entire academic year. Apply for Financial Aid once you are close to completing a GED or high school diploma.
3. *You will gain eligibility for financial aid programs once you have completed the 6 units* of college course work applicable to a degree or certificate. Your eligibility begins once the units are completed.