

# Ability to Benefit

Effective: July 1, 2012



Students who first enroll in a Title IV-eligible program of study **on or after July 1, 2012**, must have a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent in order to receive Title IV aid.

Recognized equivalents for a high school diploma include:

- General Educational Development certificate.
- Recognized homeschooling credential.
- Approved state-authorized examination.
- Documentation of successful completion of a program at least two years in length that is acceptable for full credit toward a bachelor's degree.
- Documentation that the student excelled in high school and no longer is enrolled in high school. The student must enroll at a postsecondary institution in a program that leads to at least an associate degree or equivalent.

Students who first enrolled in a Title IV-eligible program of study **prior to July 1, 2012**, must satisfy one of the following ATB alternatives to be eligible for Title IV aid:

- Have a high school diploma or recognized equivalent, as defined previously.
- Passed an approved ability-to-benefit test.
- Completed six semester, trimester or quarter credit hours or 225 clock hours acceptable toward a degree or certificate offered by the school.

The following decision tree illustrates how to apply the new criteria:

