INSTRUCTIONS (in order):

1. Official [sealed] Academic Transcripts from all prior institutions attended, turned in to the Records Office (I4-102), regardless of your desire to use that academic history. Once posted by the district you must formally request in the counseling office that all transcripts be evaluated. This may take several weeks. High School transcripts are not required.

2. Student Education Plan (Educational Program Plan) from Counseling signed by the counselor, based on your current educational goal as stated on your Appeal Form. [NOTE: IF you appealed in 2015/2016 and are still following the same signed Education Plan as is on file in the Financial Aid Office, you will not need to submit a new signed copy. Additionally you will only be permitted to follow 1 (ONE) Student Education Plan] Visit the Counseling Center (I4-303) to make an appointment with an Academic Counselor. If you are an EOPS, DSPS or Veteran student, please see your assigned counselor in that program. Please visit the counseling web page for detailed information: http://sdmesa.edu/students/services/counseling/

3. Appeal Form [pages 5 & 6]. Please NOTE: THIS IS AN APPEAL. You have been disqualified from receiving any Financial Aid. Submitting an appeal form will not guarantee that you will receive financial aid funding. Include hospital bills, death certificate(s), and/or other documentation to support your claim. Appeal forms may not be approved without supporting documentation of your extenuating circumstance as stated in the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) for Financial Aid brochure. The Financial Aid Office highly recommends attending a workshop that focuses on the Appeal Process. There will be workshops offered during the semester Appeal Submission window. Please check with the Financial Aid office and/or check the website for more details (www.sdmesa.edu/financial-aid). Attendance does not guarantee an approval, but may help give you a better understanding of the appeal as a tool for re-instatement.

The decision of the Appeal Committee is FINAL.

Financial Aid Appeal Submission Deadlines

San Diego Mesa College 2016-2017 Schedule
The Mesa College Financial Aid Office will be accepting completed appeal forms & related documentation between the following dates:

Completed appeal forms (including all documentation) are due no later than by noon on the end date posted below or your last day of classes for the semester – whichever comes first. Incomplete appeal forms will not be considered.

Spring 2017 Semester – 11/28/2016 thru 5/05/2017
Summer 2017 Session – 5/22/2017 thru 7/14/2017

Federal regulations do not permit you to appeal for a prior term.
Your completed Appeal Form along with all supporting documentation must be in the Financial Aid Office by 12:00pm according to the dates indicated on the appeal form or your last day of classes for the term (whichever comes first). See Appeal Processing Deadlines on page 1.

- All appeals are reviewed in the order with which they are received.
- During peak periods, which are July through October and December through February, the review process will take four to six or more weeks [total 8 weeks or more beginning with the dates listed on page 1] due to the number of appeals received.
- Your completed Appeal Form must clearly state your academic Program of Study (formerly Major). This Program of Study and your Educational Goal must match your Student Educational Plan. ALL courses you are enrolled in must be required based on the Educational Plan you submit with your appeal.
- Your explanation must be specific and concise. Incomplete information may cause a denial or delay in your appeal petition. Incomplete forms will not be evaluated and may be denied.
- Include a detailed explanation of the measures that you have taken to ensure that your academic performance will improve and/or what actions you have taken to correct the circumstances that created your prior lack of academic progress as defined.
- Do not include in your explanation your need for financial aid as part of your rational. The Committee is aware that any student filing an appeal is doing so based upon financial need.
- The Appeal Form will be reviewed as submitted. It is NOT the responsibility of the Financial Aid Office to know if an appeal is submitted “complete” and with all supporting documentation. Once the Appeal Committee has reached a decision, no additional documents can be added. If the Financial Aid office learns of any prior academic history not revealed at the time that your appeal form is submitted to the Financial Aid office and your appeal was ‘approved’ by the Appeal Committee based on incomplete academic history, the decision may be rendered void and the appeal denied. Any aid you may have received must be repaid.

NOTE: Your Financial Aid Appeal and the Financial Aid Appeal process is being evaluated for the following “Student Learning Outcomes”: ability to analyze problems, weight of evidence, ability to effectively communicate and civic and personal responsibility.

The decision of the Appeal Committee is FINAL.
HELPFUL HINTS FOR PREPARING AN S.A.P. APPEAL FOR SUBMISSION

Each appeal submitted is reviewed for consideration based on its own merit and the evidence of circumstances beyond the student’s control.

- **What is considered a circumstance beyond the student’s control?**
  A few examples of situations that may contribute to a circumstance that is beyond the student’s control are: documented death in the immediate family during the period(s) of poor progress, documented serious illness of the student or the student’s immediate family, documented injury from car accident, documented conflict between job and school schedule not created by the student that has been resolved and is not expected to reoccur.

- **What is not considered a circumstance beyond the student’s control?**
  A few examples of situations that are not considered as beyond the student’s control are: lack of knowledge of financial aid and/or college academic regulations, taking classes without an education plan, changing majors, failing to drop courses before deadlines, not getting along with instructors, not taking school seriously, unresolved daycare issues, returning to school to obtain a new degree because it pays more, thinking that any of the conditions given by the Appeal Committee during a prior appeal petition expired after one year or no longer applied.

- **Do you know why you have been disqualified from receiving financial aid?**
  It’s possible to be disqualified in more than one area of academic progress as defined for financial aid recipients. Each area of disqualification must be clearly explained in your appeal petition. If you don’t know why you have been disqualified please contact the Financial Aid Office.

- **Is your Completion Rate below 67%?**
  Your Completion Rate is the percentage of courses that you’ve enrolled in and did not complete successfully by earning or receiving a “W”, “F”, “NP”, “I” (Incomplete) or an “RD” (Grade Report Delayed). You must explain and document each “W”, “F”, “NP”, “I” (Incomplete) or an “RD” (Grade Report Delayed), as they will appear in your academic history for financial aid up to and including the most recently completed Spring Semester. It is of no consequence if the course(s) may have been taken a long time ago, been re-taken for a better grade, or removed from your transcript. They all count toward financial aid standards of academic progress.

- **Is your Cumulative G.P.A. below 2.0?**
  Explain the reasons for your low G.P.A. Explain what personal or academic changes you have taken to successfully complete the units/courses attempted to improve your G.P.A.

- **Do you already have a Degree?**
  If you have earned a college or university degree in the U.S. or from a Foreign College or University, the Appeal Committee needs to know why you are back in school, not using the degree. Per federal regulations, waiving credits from a foreign degree does not waive your degree. You must explain your new educational objective and why you have made this change. It is advised that you discuss this educational objective thoroughly with an academic counselor in order to address your expected completion, graduation or transfer date.

- **Have you attempted more than 90 units (or more than 180 units for the HIM Bachelor’s Degree pilot program students)?**
  You must explain why, after attempting more than 90 units (or more than 180 units for the HIM Bachelor’s Degree pilot program students), you have not yet earned or received a degree and/or transferred to a 4 year university. Just like a student with a low completion rate, you are required to explain and submit any existing documentation for each course attempted in which you have received a “W”, “F”, “NP”, “I” (Incomplete), or “RD” (Grade Report Delayed) and/or ALL courses that do not apply to your current Student Educational Plan that appear in your academic history up to and including the most recently completed Spring Semester, regardless of how long ago you may have received the grades.

**Make sure that:**
- The declared program of study on the Appeal Form is the same as the major stated on your Student Educational Plan.
- You are currently enrolled only in classes required and included in the Educational Plan submitted for your appeal and signed by the counselor.
San Diego Mesa College Appeal Process Workshop

The Financial Aid Office of San Diego Mesa College offers Financial Aid Appeal workshops during each semester’s Appeal Submission window. The Financial Aid Office highly recommends attending one of these workshops that focuses on the Financial Aid Appeal Process. Please contact the Financial Aid Office to sign up for a workshop or check the website for more details as well as a link to sign up. ([www.sdmesa.edu/financial-aid](http://www.sdmesa.edu/financial-aid)).

**Please Note:** Attendance at a workshop is not mandatory nor does it guarantee an approval, but may help give you a better understanding of the Financial Aid Appeal process as a tool for potential re-instatement. The information you will learn by attending a workshop prior to submitting your Financial Aid Appeal (such as key terminology, what may constitute an extenuating circumstance, detailed written statement and required supporting documentation), may help you to submit a more thorough appeal or come to an understanding if you don’t have a case to appeal for.


Completed appeal forms (including all documentation) are due no later than Noon on the end date posted above or your last day of classes for the semester – whichever comes first. Incomplete appeal forms will not be considered.

**WORKSHOP DATES & TIMES:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. FRIDAY, JULY 15</td>
<td>10:00am-12:00pm</td>
<td>I4-207 (STUDENT SERVICES CENTER)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. FRIDAY, AUGUST 19</td>
<td>10:00am-12:00pm</td>
<td>I4-207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14</td>
<td>3:00pm-5:00pm</td>
<td>I4-207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16</td>
<td>10:00am-12:00pm</td>
<td>I4-207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14</td>
<td>10:00am-12:00pm</td>
<td>I4-207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10</td>
<td>3:00pm-5:00pm</td>
<td>I4-207</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### APPEAL FORM

**SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE**

7250 Mesa College Drive, I4-107, San Diego, CA 92111  
fax (619) 388-2824

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#### STUDENT INFO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Last Name</th>
<th>2. First Name</th>
<th>3. CSID#</th>
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<tr>
<th>4. Email</th>
<th>5. Phone #</th>
<th>6. Program of Study</th>
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#### SUMMER OF APPEAL REQUEST

8. **Please**

   8. **I**

   **SEMESTER OF APPEAL REQUEST**

8. I am requesting a review for the following semester:  

   - [ ] Fall 2016  
   - [ ] Spring 2017  
   - [ ] Summer 2017

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9. **Please initial** each statement to indicate that you have met these requirements. You must meet all of the following criteria to submit an appeal. If you do not meet all of the criteria below, your appeal form will be returned to you.

   A. _____ I understand that I must have documented extenuating circumstances to be eligible to appeal.

   B. _____ I am currently enrolled in at least 3 or more units for the semester checked above and these units are required for the Student Educational Plan, Program of Study & Educational Goal listed above.

   C. _____ I am currently enrolled only in classes that are required for the Student Educational Plan, Program of Study & Educational Goal listed above.

   D. _____ I am currently enrolled in at least one class at SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE which is required for the Student Educational Plan, Program of Study & Educational Goal listed above.

   E. _____ I understand that the appeal decision will be based on the Student Education Plan, which I have submitted to the Financial Aid Office, for the degree objective that matches the Educational Goal stated above. If I do not have an official Ed Plan, I will need to see a counselor to develop a new Ed Plan. NOTE: You may only follow ONE (1) Official Student Education Plan.

   F. _____ I understand that I am currently NOT eligible to receive aid except for (if eligible) the Board of Governors Enrollment Fee Waiver. I should not rely on receiving any funds until a decision is made. (The Board of Governors Fee Waiver is available to California Residents only, whether or not you have an advanced degree.)

   G. _____ I understand that if the appeal is approved, I must fulfill all conditions of the appeal approval. If I do not, I will not be able to receive aid until I meet the Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirements as stated in the SAP policy for financial aid. Please visit the school’s website to view the complete information.

   H. _____ I understand that IF I HAVE a Bachelor’s or higher degree, I must explain why I am enrolled at a community college and the purpose of returning to a two year program. I may only be eligible for a Federal Direct Loan IF my appeal is approved AND I have REMAINING FEDERAL loan eligibility. (Please see your campus Loan Deadlines)

   I. _____ I understand that at the time of my appeal, the Appeal Committee will review my entire academic history, including current semester enrollment.

   J. _____ I understand that an appeal approval cannot re-instate my aid for a prior semester.

   K. _____ I understand that if the appeal is denied, the decision is final. If the appeal is approved, the appeal decision is for one semester only and does not guarantee that I will receive any grant aid. (please refer to your Lifetime Eligibility Used on www.nslds.ed.gov)
REASON FOR APPEAL

10. Check all reasons that apply to your Disqualification:

☐ I have completed less than 67% of the classes I have enrolled in.
☐ My cumulative GPA is below 2.0.
☐ I have attempted more than 90 units (or more than 180 units for the HIM Bachelor’s Degree pilot program students) from all colleges attended in the United States and foreign countries.
☐ I have earned a Bachelor’s Degree (BA/BS) or higher degree in the United States or foreign country.

PLEASE PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION TO THE QUESTIONS BELOW.

11. Please answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper and attach your detailed explanations to this appeal form. You MUST submit supporting documentation to verify your extenuating circumstances. Please do not indicate that you have a financial hardship since that is not relevant to this appeal.

a) Why have you failed to complete 67% of all units attempted OR maintain a cumulative 2.0 GPA.

b) If you have an Bachelor’s or higher Degree, AND/OR have attempted more than 90 units (or more than 180 units for the HIM Bachelor’s Degree pilot program students), please explain why you are enrolled at a community college and the purpose of returning to a two year program.

c) What personal or academic changes have you made to improve your academic progress and/or complete your educational plan this semester?

PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION IS ATTACHED. PLEASE PRINT YOUR CSID NUMBER ON EACH ADDITIONAL PAGE YOU PROVIDE.

STUDENT CERTIFICATION

Personal Verification List: Is my appeal petition ready for submission to the Financial Aid Office?

Please initial all of the following:

1. ___ The Appeal Form is complete and I have addressed all areas necessary.

2. ___ I have met with an academic counselor to discuss my Financial Aid appeal and prepare my official Student Educational Plan.

3. ___ I am including the Student Educational Plan, signed by the academic counselor, with my appeal form {unless it is already on record in the Financial Aid Office from my prior appeal}.

4. ___ My Student Educational Plan {submitted or on record from a prior appeal} matches my San Diego Mesa College Program of Study {Education Goal}.

5. ___ I am including with my appeal all documents that support my statements of circumstances beyond my control.

6. ___ I am currently enrolled in at least 3 SDCCD units, with at least 1 class at San Diego Mesa College, and ALL of my units are required according to my Student Educational Plan included with this appeal form.

7. ___ I am aware that if my Student Educational Plan does not match my stated Program of Study & Educational Goal listed on this Appeal Form, my appeal will be automatically denied. I am also aware that all Appeal Decisions are Final.

12. SIGNATURE ___________________________________________ DATE _____________________

SIGN IN PEN ONLY

APPEAL PROCESS

Appeals are reviewed based on the order with which they are received. However, during peak processing periods, which are July – September and December – February, the review process will take up to 6 to 8 weeks or longer. You will be notified by email of the appeal decision.

The decision of the Appeal Committee is FINAL.