



Financial Aid Fraud

The College of the Sequoias' Financial Aid Office is responsible for referring applicants and financial aid recipients who are suspected of having engaged in fraudulent or other criminal misconduct in connection with the receipt of federal financial aid funds to the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Inspector General (OIG).

If the student, employee or other individual is suspected of misreporting information or altering documentation to fraudulently obtain federal student aid funds, a report and evidence will be provided to the OIG at the following address:

U.S. Department of Education
Office of Inspector General
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-1510
Telephone Number: 1-800-647-8733

OIG Regional Office in Long Beach, California
Telephone Number: (562) 980-4141

Scholarship and Financial Aid Scams

The College Scholarship Fraud Prevention Act of 2000 (CSFPA) protects against fraud in student financial assistance by establishing stricter sentencing guidelines for criminal financial aid fraud. The Department of Education in conjunction with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) would like to alert students to the existence of financial aid fraud by informing them of telltale pitch lines used by fraud perpetrators, and by providing appropriate contact information.

According to the FTC, perpetrators of financial aid fraud often use these telltale lines:

- The scholarship is guaranteed or your money back.
- You can't get this information anywhere else.
- I just need your credit card or bank account number to hold this scholarship.
- We'll do all the work.
- The scholarship will cost some money.
- You've been selected by a 'national foundation' to receive a scholarship' or 'You're a finalist,' in a contest you never entered.

To file a complaint, or for free information, students or parents should call **1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357)** or visit: <http://www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams>