Dear Student:

You have been selected for a process called Verification. The U.S. Department of Education is asking Sierra College to verify the accuracy of your FAFSA application. This is part of the U.S. Department of Education's Quality Control Program. Financial Aid can’t be processed until we have completed the verification process.

We are required to collect an IRS Tax Return Transcript, which shows most line items from your tax return (Form 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ) as it was originally filed, including any accompanying forms and schedules. It does not reflect any changes you, your representative, or the IRS made after the return was filed. In many cases, a Tax Return Transcript will meet the requirements of lending institutions such as those offering mortgages and for applying for student loans.

A 2015 IRS Tax Return Transcript may be obtained through:

- **Online Request** - Go to [www.IRS.gov](http://www.IRS.gov), under the Tools heading on the IRS homepage, click "Get a Tax Transcript by Mail." Click "Get Transcript by MAIL." Make sure to request the "IRS Tax Return Transcript" and **NOT** the "IRS Tax Account Transcript."
- **Telephone Request** - 1-800-908-9946
- **Paper Request Form** - IRS Form 4506T-EZ or IRS Form 4506-T

In most cases, for electronic tax return filers, 2015 IRS income tax return information is available for the IRS DRT or the IRS Tax Return Transcript within 2–3 weeks after the 2015 electronic IRS income tax return has been accepted by the IRS. Generally, for filers of 2015 paper IRS income tax returns, the 2015 IRS income tax return information is available for the IRS DRT or the IRS Tax Return Transcript within 6–8 weeks after the 2015 paper IRS income tax return has been received by the IRS. Contact the financial aid office if more information is needed about using the IRS DRT or obtaining an IRS Tax Return Transcript.

**Individuals Granted a Filing Extension by the IRS**

An individual who is required to file a 2015 IRS income tax return and has been granted a filing extension by the IRS, must provide:

- A copy of IRS Form 4868, “Application for Automatic Extension of Time to File U.S. Individual Income Tax Return,” that was filed with the IRS for tax year 2015;

- A copy of the IRS's approval of an extension beyond the automatic six-month extension if the individual requested an additional extension of the filing time for tax year 2015; **and**

- A copy of IRS Form W–2 for each source of employment income received for tax year 2015 and, if self-employed, a signed statement certifying the amount of the individual's Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) and the U.S. income tax paid for tax year 2015.
Individuals Who Filed an Amended IRS Income Tax Return

An individual who filed an amended IRS income tax return for tax year 2015 must provide:

- A *2015 IRS Tax Return Transcript* (that will only include information from the original tax return and does not have to be signed), or any other IRS tax transcript(s) that includes all of the income and tax information required to be verified; and

- A signed copy of the 2015 IRS Form 1040X, “Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return,” that was filed with the IRS.

Individuals Who Were Victims of IRS Tax-Related Identity Theft

An individual who was the victim of IRS tax-related identity theft must provide:

- A Tax Return DataBase View (TRDBV) transcript obtained from the IRS, or any other IRS tax transcript(s) that includes all of the income and tax information required to be verified; and

- A statement signed and dated by the tax filer indicating that he or she was a victim of IRS tax-related identity theft and that the IRS is aware of the tax-related identity theft.

Individuals Who Filed Non-IRS Income Tax Returns

An individual who filed or will file a 2015 income tax return with the relevant taxing authority of a U.S. territory, commonwealth, or with a foreign central government must provide:

- A transcript that was obtained at no cost from the relevant taxing authority of a U.S. territory (Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands) or commonwealth (Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands), or a foreign central government, that includes all of the tax filer’s income and tax information required to be verified for tax year 2015; or

- If a transcript cannot be obtained at no cost from the relevant taxing authority, a signed copy of the 2015 income tax return(s).

Thank you,

Financial Aid Office