



SUNY Corning Community College Financial Responsibility Agreement

What is a Financial Responsibility Agreement (FRA)?

A Financial Responsibility Agreement (FRA) outlines and informs students of the financial obligations and responsibilities associated with enrolling for classes at Corning Community College and explains the potential consequences that may be taken if a student fails to meet those obligations. It is a useful tool for institutions to share and disseminate billing, payment, refund and responsibility information to students and families.

What is the goal of a FRA?

The goal of a FRA is to help students understand the cost of their education and the financial policies associated with their enrollment. This is why the FRA clearly explains expectations for payment and the policies related to billing, late payment, contact methods, collections, address updates, financial aid, title IV, refunding, returned payments, withdrawal, privacy rights, and more.

Are FRAs required?

Corning Community College (CCC) is **required by the federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA), as enforced by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) protection laws to be transparent with their financial policies/procedures and requirements.** CCC is bound by Regulation F of the FDCPA because unpaid student charges are de-facto student loans since CCC does not require students to pay their bill in full before the semester begins and we do not deregister students for non-payment. CCC must ensure that students are aware of their responsibilities and the college's policies. For this reason, we need to require all students, on a semester basis, to accept the FRA to acknowledge their obligations and understanding of the financial policies of CCC. Without a signed FRA, CCC cannot send an unpaid student bill to a collections agency, because we cannot make our burden of proof that a student understood/accepted their responsibilities and the college's policies.

A student incurs a tuition liability on day 1 of classes. If we allow students to incur a tuition liability without ensuring that we have been transparent with our policies/procedures and requirements, CCC is unable to prove that we have complied with the FDCPA.

Do students need to complete the FRA if tuition and applicable fees are being covered by outside funding sources?

Yes, funded students still need to complete the FRA. It is possible that these students may accrue charges on their account which are not covered by outside sources of aid. For example, students sponsored for tuition and fees only, may still have housing, library, parking, IT and other charges applied to their student account that they are responsible for. In these instances, students are financially responsible for those additional charges and must accept the FRA. Additionally, in the event an account balance results from a change of circumstance in a funding source, such as a financial aid adjustment, students remain responsible for the amount due.

What if someone else, such as a sponsor or employer, is responsible for paying a student's account?

Regardless of sponsorship or other financial arrangements, all students hold ultimate responsibility for their account, including all unpaid balances that a third-party payer may not pay completely. As such, all students must accept and sign the FRA per their institution's policy.