Current Year Aid to Pay a Prior Year Balance

**Summary/Purpose:** The use of current year aid for a prior year balance.

Per federal regulations, student financial aid program funds are allowed only to pay for the educational expenses that a student incurs in the period for which those funds are received. However, a school is permitted to use a student's student financial aid program funds to pay minor prior-year institutional charges if the student has or will have a student financial aid credit balance and if the school obtains the student's or parent's authorization to pay the prior year charges.

For prior year charges less than $100, authorization will be provided when the student accepts his/her Financial Aid Award online. Students must submit a Request for Release of a Prior Balance Hold authorization form in order to pay prior year charges for amounts that are equal to or greater than $100. Once the authorization form is received, a school financial aid administrator must determine that payment would not prevent the student from paying his or her current educational expenses. The authorization form to Request for Release of a Prior Balance Hold is available at [https://secure.olemiss.edu/finaid/balance/](https://secure.olemiss.edu/finaid/balance/).