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## Changes Continued from Page 1

At the University last year, 6,221 students received \$15.3 million dollars in loans through the GSL program. With the changes in the program, "a significant number of students will be either not eligible or the amount of money they're eligible for will decline significant-

ly," Vignoul said.

Under the old definition of independent student for financial aid, students could be considered independent if they were not claimed as a dependent on their parents tax returns, if they did not live at home more than 42 days in the

year for which the aid was sought, and if they did not receive more than \$750 in support from their parents.

"Obviously these new rules make it much more restrictive. I can't say I disagree with that," Vignoul said. "You can't find a financial aid administrator in

the country who'll disagree.

"It goes back to the basic premise of what the financial aid program is all about. The primary source of responsibility to pay for education beyond the secondary level still lies with the student and the family if they're considered dependent," he said. "The financial aid program was never designed to be a convenience for families who would choose to put their money elsewhere, into recreational vehicles, boats or what have you."

Vignoul said the changed independent-student definition may result in a shift in distribution of financial aid monies. But it does not mean less financial aid monies will be distributed.

"We're still going to be operating with the same amount of money, with the exception of the Guaranteed Student Loan program, and we certainly have enough eligible students, and we will continue to have 100 percent utilization (of the money available) in the campus based programs," Vignoul said.

FAFs will be available in the financial aid office, 260 Oregon Hall beginning Monday, Dec. 15. Vignoul said the best advice for students is to fill out the FAF according to the instructions and see what happens when the forms have been processed.

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