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FEDERAL UPDATES

ED Presents “What’s New for 2003-2004”

Looking for the latest information about the 2003-2004 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) processing cycle? You may want to register for the upcoming satellite videoconference from ED's office of Federal Student Aid (FSA) entitled "The FSA Application Processing System: What’s New for 2003-2004." The videoconference will be held on October 24, 2002, from 12-2 p.m. CDT.

Topics

The videoconference will cover the following topics:

- Enhancements to Financial Aid Administrator (FAA) Access to the Central Processing System (CPS) Online
- Changes to the FAFSA
- The simplified FAFSA on the Web for students who qualify for an Automatic Zero Expected Family Contribution (EFC) and the Simplified Needs Test
- Improved electronic communications with students
- The ED PIN
- Changes and enhancements to the Renewal Application Process, the Student Aid Report (SAR), the Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR), and Data Matches
- EDExpress Update

To Register

Those who are interested in participating in the videoconference can register for the event at www.edvideo.walcoff.com.

More Information

For more information on "The FSA Application Processing System: What's New for 2003-2004," visit the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) web site at <http://www.ifap.ed.gov/dpclatters/ANN0205.html>.

FY 2000 Cohort Default Rates: In the Mail and on the Web

If you haven't received it already, check your mailbox. ED officially mailed fiscal year (FY) 2000 cohort default rates (CDRs) to schools on September 9, 2002.

ED subsequently published a press release announcing the availability of the FY 2000 cohort default rate database at the following web site:

www.ed.gov/offices/OSFAP/defaultmanagement/cdr.html. Users can search for CDRs by school or download the entire list.

National Cohort Default Rate

According to ED's press release, available at www.ed.gov/PressReleases/09-2002/09122002.html, the national cohort default rate increased slightly from 5.6 percent (the all-time low, in FY 1999) to 5.9 percent (in FY 2000). The announcement attributes the fluctuation in the rate to changes in the economy. Also in the press release, Secretary of Education Rod Paige credited schools and student loan agencies for their increased awareness programs and student debt management counseling as factors in helping to keep default rates low.

More Information and Questions

For more information about the consequences of cohort default rates and how to appeal them, see Shoptalk Online Edition 169. For questions about the FY 2000 official cohort default rate appeal procedures, contact Ken Johnson at (800) 252-9743, ext. 4701, or send an e-mail message to ken.johnson@tgslc.org.

Closed School Corner

Newly reported closures from Postsecondary Educational Participants System and the August 2002 *Closed School Monthly Report* supplied by the Department of Education:

NEWLY REPORTED CLOSURES				
OPE ID#	SCHOOL NAME	SCHOOL ADDRESS	UNOFFICIAL CLOSURE DATE	ED'S OFFICIAL CLOSURE DATE
02155200	Flair Beauty Institute	2016 Staples Mill Rd. Richmond, VA. 23230	N/A	2/12/1996
02107400	Jon Louis School of Beauty	2981 Hempstead Turnpike Levittown, NY. 11756	N/A	5/22/2002
00458302	Michiana Institute	2 Executive Campus #200 Cherry Hill, NJ. 08002-9936	N/A	6/20/2002
01114800	National Education Center – Bryman Campus	9215 N. Black Canyon Phoenix, AZ. 85021	N/A	12/31/1989
02149308	SCS Business & Technical Institute	516 Main St. East Orange, NJ. 07017	N/A	1/11/1995
02218500	South Texas Vocational Technical Institute	2255 N. Coria Brownsville, TX. 78520-8779	N/A	4/5/2002
02497302	Trinity College – Business	620 Folsom San Francisco, CA. 94107	N/A	12/30/1994
ERROR CORRECTIONS				
OPE ID#	SCHOOL NAME	SCHOOL ADDRESS	PREVIOUSLY REPORTED CLOSURE DATE	ED'S OFFICIAL CLOSURE DATE
01314300	Jon Louis School of Beauty	210 East 188th St. Bronx, NY. 10458-9998	4/15/2000*	7/11/2002

* This location moved to the Bronx address on 4/15/2000. This address change was erroneously reported as a closure. Subsequently, the Bronx location closed on 7/11/2002.

TG UPDATES

Reminder: Free Fall Teleconference Coming Soon

There's still time to plan to participate in TG's upcoming telephone conference on Student Loan Forgiveness and Employee Repayment Programs, which will be held on Thursday, September 26, 2002. The telephone conference will feature Sam Wilson, TG's Assistant Vice President of Customer Assistance, and Steven Smith, TG's Assistant Vice President for Strategic Planning.

The telephone conference, scheduled from 2-3 p.m. (CDT), will include discussions of teacher and child care forgiveness programs for Stafford borrowers as well as a few employee benefit programs, such as the Federal Student Loan Repayment Program, that are offered by employers. The presentation will be followed by a question-and-answer session.

This event is free of charge and open to unlimited participants from any institution. Please submit any questions in advance to Sheila Casey at sheila.casey@tgsdc.org to ensure that your specific questions are answered. Registrants will receive a web address where they can review materials related to the topic prior to the telephone conference.

Participation

To register and obtain further details, contact Premiere Teleconferencing at (800) 289-0579 and reference confirmation number 462649. On Thursday, September 26, 2002, registrants should call (800) 474-8920 promptly at 1:50 p.m. and again reference the confirmation number.

TG Offers Listing of Private Student Loans

In the upcoming Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act of 1965, TG is hopeful that Congress will strengthen the existing federal need-based financial aid programs. While TG advocates this action to correct the imbalance between need-based and other types of aid, TG also supports an increase in the current Stafford loan limits, thereby allowing more students to borrow as needed within the federal programs. Even if those increased limits are approved, however, the cost of attendance at institutions across the country continues to rise, and increasing numbers of students may turn to private loans to bridge the gap between their financial resources and their educational expenses.

The growing need for private loans has prompted schools to research various private lenders to assist their students in making informed decisions about this form of financial aid. TG, with the assistance of the National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs (NCHELP), has made this research simpler by adding to its innovative information resources for customers a Private Student Loan Directory at www.tgsdc.org. This comprehensive listing, compiled semi-annually by and posted in agreement with the *Greentree Gazette*, includes information on all lenders offering private education loans. The directory details various specifications and benefits set by each lender, including:

- Annual loan limits,
- Interest rate formulas,
- Origination fees and other fees, and
- Maximum repayment periods.

The directory is also categorized by subject matter areas, making it easy to search for lenders that have particular private loan programs for individuals in certain categories. These categories include:

- Students participating in graduate study, second degree programs, or teaching credential programs;
- Students participating in law, dental, medical, or health professions studies;
- Parents or eligible sponsors of K-12 students;
- Students seeking consolidation/home equity/tuition payment loans; and
- Students in specific regions or states.

Currently available in PDF, the Private Student Loan Directory will be modified in Spring 2003 to allow students, families, and financial aid professionals to search for particular lenders or to sort the listing by available interest rates or benefits.

More Information

TG has the ability to disburse non-TG FFELP and private loan funds through its enhanced Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) process on AdvanTG™. For more information about this process, see *Shoptalk Online* Edition 151.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The September 12 issue of the *Legislative Report* provides a status of FY 2003 appropriations for primary higher education and student financial aid programs. Read the details at http://www.tgslc.org/tgslc/publications/lege_report/2002/lr_020912.htm.

THIS, THAT, AND THE OTHER

In the first year since its inception, visitors to TG's Support Knowledgebase, located at <http://tg.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/tg.cfg/php/enduser/home.php> (for students and borrowers) and <http://tgslc.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/tgslc.cfg/php/enduser/home.php> (for schools and lenders), have viewed over 28,000 answers.

This means that from September 2001 to August 2002, thousands of TG's customers have gone to the Support Knowledgebase to view one of the hundreds of informative and helpful answers to questions about loan issues stored in the system's database.

Visitors to the Support Knowledgebase can:

- Submit questions for direct answers,
- Browse or search existing questions and answers, and
- Set up a "My Stuff" section that helps them organize the questions they submit and the answers they receive.

Check out this exciting and evolving student loan resource!

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To ask questions about the articles in *Shoptalk Online*, subscribe or order additional copies, please contact Communications at (800) 252-9743, ext. 4990 or communications@tgslc.org.

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