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## Federal Updates

### TG Answers Your Questions on the Stafford MPN

Financial aid professionals are asking TG a number of questions about the use of the Stafford Master Promissory Note (Stafford MPN) for multiple loan periods. The questions come in the wake of ED's announcement that it is removing restrictions concerning the types of schools that may use the Stafford MPN to certify loans over multiple loan periods, an announcement first covered in *Shoptalk Online* Edition 184, available at [www.tgslc.org/shoptalk/2002/st184/st18401.cfm](http://www.tgslc.org/shoptalk/2002/st184/st18401.cfm).

The level of interest in this topic remains high. More than 70 schools dialed in for a special TG teleconference on the multi-year use of the MPN last week. To assist anyone who was unable to participate, TG has posted teleconference materials—including a Q&A document with responses to more than 30 common questions (several of which are provided below)—on its Web site, *TG Online*, at [www.tgslc.org/custfocus/teleconf030213.cfm](http://www.tgslc.org/custfocus/teleconf030213.cfm).

### Frequently Asked Questions

Highlighted below are answers to some of the most frequently asked questions on the multi-year use of the MPN.

**Q: Which schools are eligible to use the Stafford MPN as a multi-year (serial) promissory note?**

**A:** Currently, only 4-year and graduate or professional schools may use the Stafford MPN as a multi-year promissory note. However, effective for loans certified on or after March 1, 2003, all schools located in the United States, unless notified otherwise by ED, may use the Stafford MPN as a multi-year promissory note.

**Q: Our school is new to the multi-year MPN process. Could you explain “notification” and “confirmation” control points and their purpose?**

**A:** There are a number of control points in the FFELP loan-making process that provide consumer protection and help prevent fraud and abuse. Notification and confirmation processes are two of these control points that replace the previous requirement that the borrower sign a new note for each loan period. Schools must decide which of these processes they want to use to help ensure that the borrower wants subsequent loans for each subsequent year. The notification/confirmation control points are based on existing processes that schools have in place for awarding financial aid. However, it is important that schools review these processes while transitioning into the multi-year use of the Stafford MPN.

Notification – a control option whereby the borrower is provided with information on the proposed loan amount and type and the borrower is asked to respond *only if* he or she wishes to reject the loan, reduce the loan, or adjust the loan mix (amount of subsidized and unsubsidized loans).

Confirmation – a control option whereby the borrower is required to take action to confirm the loan offer or to request a specific loan amount.

**Q: If the school performs a confirmation process for Stafford loans, is the lender also required to perform another notification or confirmation process?**

**A:** No. There is no requirement for both parties to complete a notification or confirmation process for Stafford loans. If the school performs a Stafford loan confirmation process, there is no additional requirement of notification or confirmation by the lender.

**Q: If the school does not perform either a notification or confirmation process for Stafford loans, is the lender required to do a notification or confirmation process?**

**A:** It is important to remember that the school’s policy establishes these processes. If, under the school policy, the school does not provide either a notification or confirmation process, the lender should complete one of these efforts. If the school chooses to require a confirmation process, the school may request its service provider(s) to do the confirmation on its behalf. The school should discuss the notification and confirmation process services that service providers can offer and discuss which options work best for the school and its student population.

**Q: If a borrower has signed a Stafford MPN while attending a school that is ineligible for the multi-year use of the MPN and then either that school becomes eligible for the multi-year use or the student transfers to a school that is eligible, must the borrower sign a new Stafford MPN if he or she wants to borrow again?**

**A:** Generally, no. In order for the borrower not to have to sign a new Stafford MPN, the borrower must have a valid MPN and be attending a school that is eligible for the multi-year feature of the MPN at the time of the subsequent loan.

However, some schools have individual policies requiring new Stafford MPNs (e.g., for all transfer students).

**Q: We have had several students return their signed Stafford MPN with a requested loan amount handwritten on the MPN. Does that invalidate the MPN or in some way limit the amounts the lender can provide the borrower after the first Stafford loan is disbursed?**

**A:** The borrower's written request does not invalidate the Stafford MPN. Instead, the lender should consider the amount as identifying the borrower's requested loan amount for the loan being made. Any subsequent Stafford loan would follow the notification/confirmation process.

### **For More Information**

If you have any questions, our customer assistance team can help. You can call them at (800) 845-6267 or reach them by e-mail at [cust.assist@tgslc.org](mailto:cust.assist@tgslc.org).

## **TG Updates**

### **Craig Berkley Joins TG to Manage National Sales Efforts**

Craig A. Berkley has joined TG to direct the national sales team. His responsibilities will include managing key marketing and sales activities and supporting strategic efforts for TG's team of national account representatives.

"This is an exciting time for the industry and for TG," said Craig. "As student populations grow and diversify, and the needs of financial aid offices become more complex, excellence in customer service and effective implementation of technology are keys to success. TG has and continues to play a crucial role in raising the standards for both in the FFELP industry."

A well-recognized professional in the financial aid community, Craig comes to TG with more than 16 years of experience. Most recently, he served as a regional sales manager for AFSA Data Corporation in Indianapolis. While at AFSA, he was responsible for managing sales and account relationships for outsourcing services, software, and Internet applications to college and university business offices in twenty states.

Craig's past experience with other organizations such as Sallie Mae, Inc., Education First, LLC, and the State Student Assistance Commission of Indiana have contributed greatly to his understanding of key industry issues. His previous involvement with the Indiana State Financial Aid Association (ISFAA), the Michigan Student Financial Aid Association (MSFAA), and NASFAA have allowed Craig to further industry partnerships and relationships.

Craig holds a master of education degree in student personnel services in higher education from the University of South Carolina in Columbia, and a bachelor of arts degree in forensic studies from Indiana University in Bloomington.

You may reach Craig by calling him at (800) 252-9743, ext. 4808, or by sending an e-mail message to [craig.berkley@tgslc.org](mailto:craig.berkley@tgslc.org).

# Trends and Issues

## **.edu Domain Expands Again**

Educause, the technology consortium that manages the .edu Internet domain for the U.S. Department of Commerce, has expanded its policy and will soon make .edu web addresses available to all nationally accredited institutions. Currently, only community colleges, two-year degree-granting institutions, and four-year degree-granting colleges and universities and can apply for a web address under the .edu domain.

### **Newly Eligible Institutions**

Institutions that may now qualify for the .edu domain include, among others, schools that specialize in:

- Cosmetology
- Midwifery
- Occupational Therapy
- Veterinary Medicine
- Distance Education and Training

For a comprehensive list of the types of institutions that fall under the review of the national accrediting agencies, visit ED's Office of Postsecondary Education Web site at [www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/accreditation/natl agencies.html](http://www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/accreditation/natl agencies.html).

### **When to Apply**

Educause will accept registrations for .edu addresses from newly eligible institutions beginning April 15, 2003, via its web site at [www.educause.edu/edudomain/](http://www.educause.edu/edudomain/).

### **Previous Educause Policy Change**

Since Educause took over management of the .edu domain in October 2001, it has expanded use of the address to two-year colleges, which had previously been restricted from using the domain. See Edition 131 of *Shoptalk Online* at [www.tgslc.org/shoptalk/2001/st131/st13104.cfm](http://www.tgslc.org/shoptalk/2001/st131/st13104.cfm) for details about this previous policy change.

### **More Information**

For more information about policies pertaining to .edu web addresses, contact Educause at [edupolicy@educause.edu](mailto:edupolicy@educause.edu).

## **JobGusher™ to Host Online Job Fairs**

The value of work and volunteer experience is becoming more important as the competition to get into college and find a job upon graduation increases. Help is available, and just in time for individuals seeking part-time work, volunteer opportunities, or a new life after graduation.

JobGusher ([www.JobGusher.com](http://www.JobGusher.com)) announces an Online Banking and Financial Job Fair and an Online Non-Profit Job Fair February 24-March 9. The job fairs will bring together job seekers and employers looking to fill a variety of positions.

## **How Online Job Fairs Work**

Participation in the Online Job Fairs will simplify the job seeking process. Job seekers will click on the special Job Fair banner on the JobGusher site for immediate access to information about participating companies.

Jobseekers can decide which positions to apply for on the spot and then apply electronically through the site. At the Online Job Fairs, job seekers can:

- Research hiring companies
- View available positions
- Apply for positions of interest online

For employers, participation in the Job Fairs improves exposure and access to job seekers without the high costs usually associated with traditional job fairs. During the Online Job Fairs, participating employers can:

- Post their openings to a nationwide audience
- Receive applications and résumés
- Invite specific job seekers to apply for their open positions
- Attach pre-screening questions to job postings for candidates to answer

## **Participation**

There is no cost for jobseekers to attend the Online Job Fairs. To participate, they simply need to visit JobGusher.com™ between Monday, February 24, and Sunday, March 9.

Employers wishing to participate must be registered JobGusher employers. For more information on exhibiting, contact sales@jobgusher.com or call 1-866-JOB-GUSH (562-4874).

## **More Information**

For more information on JobGusher, visit [www.JobGusher.com](http://www.JobGusher.com) or contact JobGusher at 1-866-JOB-GUSH (562-4874).

JobGusher is the premier recruitment site offering job seekers and employers a wide range of tools to assist them with their employment needs. JobGusher is a service of Education Assistance Services Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of TG.

## **This, That, and the Other...**

ED has announced that the address for its Federal Student Aid (FSA) Schools Portal web site will change permanently in April 2003. The new URL is [fsa4schools.ed.gov](http://fsa4schools.ed.gov). Both the new and old addresses currently work; however, the old address will cease to work near the end of April 2003.

The full text of ED's announcement is posted at [ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0205SchPortalurlChg.html](http://ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0205SchPortalurlChg.html).



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To ask questions about *Shoptalk Online*, please contact Communications at (800) 252-9743, ext. 4732 or [communications@tgslc.org](mailto:communications@tgslc.org).

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