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TG updates

Search *Shoptalk Online* for previous issues, specific topics

As a subscriber, you know that *Shoptalk Online* provides useful and timely information about what's happening in the financial aid industry each week. Did you know that you can also access previous issues of *Shoptalk Online* and perform quick searches to retrieve the information you need when you need it?

Previous issues

Previous issues of *Shoptalk Online* are available on the main page at www.tgslc.org/shoptalk/index.cfm. Just click on the issue you want to access, and it pops up in its entirety. These archives go as far back as July 1998.

Topical searches

The *Shoptalk Online* main page also offers a search feature. To use it, simply type a word or phrase in the text box at the top of the page and click "Search" or press "Enter." (Note: this feature is case-sensitive.) To narrow your search, you can designate the years within which you would like to search. Since most topics covered in *Shoptalk Online* are time-sensitive, the years 2003 and 2002 are automatically selected to accommodate the needs of most users. However, if you don't want to include all of those years, you can "turn off" a year by clicking in its corresponding check box.

The searches you perform will yield a list of articles. The list is in reverse chronological order to give you the most recent information first. Each item in the list begins with a link to the corresponding *Shoptalk Online* issue. The link is followed by a couple of lines of text from the article to help you determine whether you've found one that meets your needs. If the word or phrase you used in your

search occurs in these couple of lines of text, it will be shown in bold type to make scanning easier.

Questions and comments

For questions and comments about the search feature, send an e-mail message to webmaster@tgslc.org.

Trends and issues

New version of Online Student Loan Counseling debuts tonight

As announced in *Shoptalk Online* Edition 207, *Mapping Your Future* is upgrading its Online Student Loan Counseling (OSLC) this summer, and the launch will occur tonight. Students using *Mapping Your Future* tomorrow will experience a new counseling session with enhanced content, questions, and format when the next version of OSLC is live. In addition, schools will see an enhanced Financial Aid Offices (FAO) Access area.

Sneak preview

To preview or test the new counseling sessions, go to:

- Stafford entrance: <http://dev.mapping-your-future.org/entrancecounseling28/?act=intro>
- Stafford exit: <http://dev.mapping-your-future.org/exitcounseling28/?act=intro>
- Perkins entrance: <http://dev.mapping-your-future.org/perkins/entrancecounseling28/?act=intro>
- Perkins exit: <http://dev.mapping-your-future.org/perkins/exitcounseling28/?act=intro>

You are encouraged to test each counseling type as often as you are able. When testing, select Texas as your state and MYF Sample School. To ensure privacy, be sure to avoid entering any real-life personal data (e.g., Social Security Numbers) into the student form when testing.

To view or test the new FAO Access area, go to <https://dev.mapping-your-future.org/fao30/> and login with user name and password 000000. If you are testing, please try the process for finding confirmations, downloading reports, and exporting data.

As you test the new FAO Access or counseling sessions, please consider the following questions:

- Is the process intuitive?
- Are the instructions helpful?
- In FAO Access, is response time and downloading time efficient?
- In the student counseling session, if you answer a question incorrectly, does the test indicate the error and prohibit you from proceeding until you answer the question correctly?

Feedback

After testing, please provide your feedback and comments to *Mapping Your Future's* CariAnne Cutshall at carianne.cutshall@mapping-your-future.org as soon as possible. Please include your browser information when you send your feedback. Even if you test the site and find no problems, please let CariAnne know.

Planned outage tonight

To implement the new version of Online Student Loan Counseling, *Mapping Your Future* staff will bring down the site tonight, July 15, at 10 p.m. CDT. The outage may last until about 3 a.m. on Wednesday, July 16.

Topsy-turvy terminology

We work in an ever-evolving industry. The rules are always changing and the lingo that relates to those rules is often confusing. This *Shoptalk Online* feature will shed some light on some of the more easily confused terms used in our industry, so that you can say, "Now I get it!"

Period of enrollment vs. payment period

Two often-confused terms in the student loan world are "period of enrollment" and "payment period." Here's the difference:

The "period of enrollment" is the period for which a Stafford or PLUS loan is intended and, thus, is the period for which a school may certify a loan. That's why the "period of enrollment" is often referred to as the "loan period." The period of enrollment can be short (for example, one term, such as a fall semester) or it can be longer, such as the school's academic year. However, the maximum period of enrollment for which a school may certify a loan is 12 months. Most standard term-based schools certify their loans for the period of enrollment during which most of their students attend — the fall/spring academic year.

The "payment period" is the basis on which a school must schedule and deliver disbursements for a particular period of enrollment. In other words, it is the basis on which a student gets "paid." Payment periods correspond to portions of the period of enrollment. So, for example, at a school with a fall/spring period of enrollment, the payment periods would be fall and spring.

Think of it this way: the period of enrollment is the whole period for which a school certifies a loan, and it is composed of payment periods during which the school pays the student.

More information

For more information on determining the period of enrollment, see the *Common Manual*, section 6.2. For more information on determining payment periods, see section 6.3.

You can access or download the latest *Electronic Common Manual* from *TG Online* at www.tgslc.org/resources/integrated_online_manual.cfm.

Legislative updates

The July 8, 2003, issue of TG's *Legislative Report* provides updates on the status of major student aid–related legislation filed during the first session of the 108th Congress, including appropriations, budget resolutions, technical amendments, and several other measures.

Also included are updates on two bills introduced in the first special session of the Texas Legislature that affect institutions of higher education: one that calls for an interim study of public university governance and another that would limit college admission under Texas' "Top 10 Percent" law.

Read the full report on *TG Online* at www.tgslc.org/lege_report/index.cfm.

This, that, and the other...

The Higher Education Act reauthorization process has begun — have you been keeping up with the latest developments? If you're not sure where to go in your quest for reauthorization information, start with the reauthorization pages on *TG Online* at www.tgslc.org/reauth/index.cfm.

TG will be updating the page as new information becomes available. Visit now to check out the new items posted in the last week, and let TG be your premier source of reauthorization information.



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

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