

In this issue:

TG updates	1
TG enhances reauthorization pages on <i>TG Online</i>	1
Federal updates	2
The elusive RT4: Calculations not required for less-than-half-time enrollment	2
Trends and issues	2
<i>Edufacts</i> [™] — August 2004.....	2
Legislative update	3
This, that, and the other	3

TG updates

TG enhances reauthorization pages on *TG Online*

With Congress adjourned, the process of reauthorizing the Higher Education Act (HEA) may seem stagnant right now. During the lull, TG has been working to enhance its online reauthorization resources to make them more useful for when reauthorization activities pick up again.

TG has moved the major reauthorization bills to their own page in order to include bill titles, bill statuses, and searchable bill summaries.

To access reauthorization resources on *TG Online*, go to www.tgslc.org/reauth/index.cfm. You can also get there by selecting the Reauthorization link on the "For Schools" or "For Lenders" main page.

To search bill summaries, select the Reauthorization Bills link on the reauthorization main page. Then enter Ctrl+F to bring up the Find dialog box and enter the keywords for which you'd like to search.

Keeping up with reauthorization bills is just that easy!

Federal updates

The elusive RT4: Calculations not required for less-than-half-time enrollment

Return of Title IV funds (RT4) calculations are not exactly fun. They may be bearable, but chances are they're not your favorite activity as a financial aid administrator. So why would you complete the calculation when you don't need to?

The RT4 calculation is required only for a student who begins attendance during a payment period or period of enrollment and ceases attendance in (withdraws from) all of his or her classes. The calculation is *not* required for a student who drops below half-time enrollment.

If a student drops below half-time enrollment, the student's grace period begins, but the student is not considered withdrawn, and is therefore not subject to the RT4 calculation.

More information

For more information on RT4, consult the Return of Title IV Funds chapter (volume 2, chapter 6) of the *Federal Student Aid (FSA) Handbook*. The FSA Handbook is available on *TG Online* at www.tgslc.org/resources/fsa_handbook.cfm.

Trends and issues

Edufacts™ — August 2004

Each month, TG provides current information about education issues through *Edufacts*. Produced by TG as a public service, *Edufacts* illustrate studies and surveys conducted by TG and other educational organizations, and trends observed. This month, *Edufacts* looks at the ratio of bachelor's degrees earned by women to those earned by men.

Women have earned more than half of all bachelor's degrees awarded since 1982, and the number of bachelor's degrees earned by women has more than doubled from 364,100 in 1971 to 742,100 in 2002.

Although women still trail men in some fields, the number and proportion of bachelor's degrees earned by women have increased significantly in the past 30 years. Women earned 43 percent of all bachelor's degrees in 1971, but every year



since 1982, they've earned at least half of all bachelor's degrees awarded. In 2002, women were awarded 57 percent of all bachelor's degrees.

Some traditionally female-dominated fields such as the health professions, education, English, and performing arts, have remained so, with women earning the majority of degrees in 1971 and 2002. In other fields, such as psychology, communications, life sciences, and business, women earned less than half the degrees awarded in 1971, but earned at least half of all bachelor's degrees in these fields by 2002.

In 2002, women still earned less than half of the bachelor's degrees awarded in the traditionally male-dominated fields of mathematics (47 percent), agriculture and natural resources (46 percent), physical sciences (42 percent), computer and information sciences (28 percent), and engineering (21 percent).

Women also have made gains at the graduate level. In 2002, women earned 59 percent of master's degrees awarded, compared with 50 percent in 1985 and 40 percent in 1971.

Source: Department of Education National Center for Education Statistics, *The Condition of Education 2004*, available at <http://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe>.

Legislative update

The August 5 issue of TG's *Legislative Report* includes details on fiscal proposals from the Kerry-Edwards presidential ticket, the latest budget deficit projections from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and a recent meeting of the Texas Interim Committee on Higher Education. Keep up with the latest developments by reading the full report on *TG Online* at www.tgslc.org/lege_report/index.cfm.

This, that, and the other

If you have children heading back to school this month, your wallet is probably feeling a little lighter. Junior's piggybank may be similarly shedding pounds.

American families are projected to spend \$14.79 billion on back-to-school clothing, supplies, electronics, and other items this year, according to a survey commissioned by the National Retail Federation. That breaks down to an average of \$483.28 per family, up 7.2 percent from last year.

On top of that, teens and preteens are planning to kick in an additional \$884 million of their own money.

Details on the survey and additional data are available from the federation's Web site at www.nrf.com.

To help college students find a balance in managing their particularly tight finances, TG offers a number of informative resources on the "Managing Your Money" page of

Adventures In Education, our public-service college and career planning Web site, at www.aie.org/links/links_manage.cfm.



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