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Tip^{of} the Week

Spanish versions of deferment forms are now available for downloading and ordering on *TG Online* at www.tgslc.org/forms/frms_def.cfm.

Federal updates

NSLDS Newsletter #13 announces new accommodations to NSLDS for Grad PLUS loans

This month, ED released NSLDS Newsletter #13, which provides guidance on new changes to the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) due to the expansion of the PLUS Loan Program to graduate and professional students.

First, the newsletter announces the new loan codes for Grad PLUS loans under each of the loan programs (FFELP and Direct Loan Program). In the FFELP, the code will be "GB" and in the Direct Loan Program, the code will be "D3."

The newsletter also explains that there will not be a separate category (apart from parent PLUS loans) under a borrower's NSLDS Loan History for Grad PLUS loans, but that a borrower's aggregate PLUS loans borrowed will be displayed under the category of "PLUS/PLUS Graduate Loans."

Newsletter #13 also announces a new military deferment code of "MO" and information about how overpayments, in particular, overpayments of the new Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) and National SMART Grant, are displayed and updated.

More information

To access NSLDS Newsletter #13, visit the Information for Financial Aid Professionals Web site at www.ifap.ed.gov/nsldsmaterials/attachments/NSLDSNewsletter13.doc.

Trends and issues

Question of the week

Q. May a school certify an additional unsubsidized Stafford loan for a dependent undergraduate student if the parent(s) has been pre-approved for a PLUS loan, but refuses to actually apply for and borrow the loan due to financial concerns?

A. In most cases, the answer is no. A pre-approval indicates the parent's ability to obtain the PLUS loan. Additionally, the 2006-07 *Federal Student Aid Handbook* volume 3, page 3-73, states that a parent's unwillingness to borrow a PLUS loan does not make the dependent student eligible for additional unsubsidized Stafford loan amounts. The parent should go through the application process and get formally denied for the PLUS loan before the school can certify additional unsubsidized Stafford loan funds for the student. However, there are some exceptional circumstances, which include, but are not limited to, situations in which the parent is receiving public assistance or disability benefits, the parent is incarcerated, or the parent's whereabouts are unknown, in which the school could certify additional unsubsidized Stafford loan amounts without a PLUS denial due to adverse credit.

Do you have a question?

If you have a question that needs an answer, feel free to *Ask TG™*. *Ask TG* is TG's online query tool for borrowers, schools, and lenders. It includes a database of frequently asked questions about financial aid, student loan processing, and TG's products and services. To submit a question to *Ask TG*, visit <http://tgslc.custhelp.com>.

Common Manual

Common Manual Governing Board announces new Executive Management Team and Policy Committee membership

The *Common Manual* Governing Board announced the following changes to its Executive Management Team for the 2006–07 year, along with new Policy Committee members for 2006-08 on Tuesday, July 18, 2006. The Executive Management Team coordinates the annual update and production of the paper and

electronic versions of the *Common Manual*. The team also coordinates funding of the manual, manages public relations, and facilitates special projects such as the restructure of the manual and, soon, a *Common Manual* Web site. The Policy Committee researches, drafts, edits, and maintains all policy proposals approved for the *Common Manual*. Terms begin August 1, 2006.

***Common Manual* Executive Management Team**

The *Common Manual* Executive Management Team will include:

- Jacki Fairbairn, director of policy and regulatory compliance for Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation, who will be serving a one-year term (August 1, 2006 to July 31, 2007) as chair of the governing board.
- Cheryl Hughes, compliance and training officer for the South Carolina Student Loan Corporation, who will be serving a two-year term (August 1, 2006 to July 31, 2008) as treasurer.
- Joe Bradley, director of regulatory compliance, Office of Counsel for the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC), who will be serving a two-year term (August 1, 2006 to July 31, 2008) as communications director.
- Nina Hold, TG assistant vice president of policy and regulatory affairs, who will be serving a two-year term (August 1, 2006 to July 31, 2008) as production director.

Hold has been the TG representative on the Governing Board since the inception of the *Common Manual*, and has served the Governing Board as a past chair. She has worked in student financial assistance for 24 years, and has been very active in a variety of FFELP national committees.

***Common Manual* Policy Committee**

Carolyn Small, policy analyst and trainer for the Iowa College Student Aid Commission, and Dan Tryon of the Michigan Guaranty Agency will begin a one-year term as co-chairs of the Policy Committee on August 1, 2006.

Other members of the Policy Committee include Susan Fields of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), Kevin Burke of American Student Assistance (ASA), Onaleah McClellan of the Florida Department of Education, Diana Oglesby of the National Student Loan Program (NSLP), Nancy Masten of the Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation (GLHEGC), Carol Egan of American Education Services (AES), Brenda Grady of USA Funds, Kim Elston of the Oklahoma Guaranteed Student Loan Program (OGSLP), and Michelle Anderson of TG.

Anderson, who is a senior policy advisor at TG, has served as a member of the Policy Committee since 1999 and has been a co-Chair of the committee twice.

In addition, the Policy Committee will have administrative support from Stephanie Aylor of the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation, Justin Rummel of AES and Kelly Kaelin of TG.

Kaelin, who is a senior policy advisor at TG, has served as the *Common Manual's* editing chair since 2000.

This, that, and the other

Internships have displaced casual hourly jobs as the more typical summer experience for college students — one that may provide valuable professional contacts or even lead to full-time employment after graduation. In a survey by Vault.com that racks student employment trends, 62 percent of college students planned to do an internship this summer, up from 41 percent two years ago, as reported in *The New York Times*.

But as many as half of all internships are unpaid or low-paid, career counselors say. Some students even end up paying tuition to do unpaid internships because some companies, concerned about labor laws, require students to receive academic credit for the experience. And so college administrators nationwide have become more concerned about access to internships at all socioeconomic levels. The solution, they say, is to provide financial assistance.

To read the July 19 article, visit

www.nytimes.com/2006/07/19/nyregion/19interns.html?_r=1&oref=slogin. Free site registration is required.



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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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