
Introduction



This volume of the Federal Student Aid Handbook discusses the eligibility requirements for students and parent borrowers and your responsibilities to ensure that recipients qualify for their aid awards.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

There are many factors that you must consider when reviewing a student's application for aid from the FSA programs, such as whether the student is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, whether the student is making satisfactory academic progress, and whether the student has a defaulted FSA loan. To answer these questions you receive information about the student from several different sources, including the Department of Education's Central Processing System (CPS) for financial aid applications and the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS).

Throughout the year the Department provides updates to schools in the form of Dear Partner/Colleague Letters. These letters and other information, such as Federal Register notices and announcements containing system updates and technical guidance, are available on the *Information for Financial Aid Professionals* (IFAP) website (www.ifap.ed.gov).

Schools using software from the Department also receive other materials that explain how the software operates, such as technical references, which are available on the FSA Download website (see the margin). The FSA Handbook doesn't cover the operation of specific pieces of software. Schools using third-party software should consult the vendor's reference materials for technical guidance.

RECENT CHANGES

On page 10 we added a note that schools must include as part of their written policies what the enrollment equivalent is for the work portion of a co-op program

We moved the statement under "Losing eligibility" about checking citizenship status once per year from the end of Ch. 1 to the first page of Ch. 2.

Program and systems information online

www.fsadownload.ed.gov

Software:

- Direct Loan Tools
- EDconnect
- EExpress for Windows
- ISIR Analysis Tool
- Return of Title IV Funds
- SSCR for Windows

Technical References and User Guides for:

- CPS (ISIR, Summary of Changes, Renewal FAFSA Process Guides, etc.)
- COD
- Electronic Data Exchange
- EExpress Packaging

www.ifap.ed.gov

- Federal Registers
- Electronic Announcements
- Dear Partner/Colleague Letters
- FSA Assessment modules:
 - Student Eligibility—
www.ifap.ed.gov/qamodule/StudentEligibility/AssessmentC.html
 - Satisfactory Academic Progress—
www.ifap.ed.gov/qamodule/SAPModule/SAPModuleIntro.html

There have been significant changes in the documentation used by the Department of Homeland Security for immigrants. Accordingly, we have revised Chapter 2. In particular note that the new machine readable immigrant visas (MRIVs) are placed in the passport of the holder and function as temporary evidence of permanent residence. There is also the new travel document for permanent residents, refugees, and asylees. Both of these are qualifying documents for receiving aid. Also note that determinations involving aliens who are permanently residing under color of law are no longer conducted by the Department of Homeland Security, but the pertinent section on the current G-845S does not reflect that.

We added on page 40 a margin note explaining that real-time corrections won't occur when a school is added to the FAFSA. Rather, the application will be sent through the NSLDS match again to ensure that the new school receives the latest financial aid history information.

On page 57 we added the code RH. See that page for the explanation of the RH status information letter sent by the Selective Service System.

We have moved several sections to other volumes of the Handbook where they are more relevant. In Chapter 1 the satisfactory academic progress information on transfer students and change of program was moved to or was already contained in Volume 2. In Chapter 6, in the Stafford and PLUS section, "Refusing to originate or certify a loan" and "FFEL lender of last resort" were moved to Volume 4; in the Federal Work Study section, all of the paragraphs except for the first one pertaining to student eligibility were moved to Volume 6.

If you have any comments regarding the FSA Handbook, please contact Research and Publications via e-mail at fsaschoolspubs@ed.gov.