

Enrollment and Student Services (ESS)  
8<sup>th</sup> Annual ESS Informational Summit  
Federal and State Regulatory and Institutional Updates  
July 14, 2016

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**Welcome**

**I. Federal Updates**

- a. Wind-down of the Federal Perkins Loan Program
  - Under section 461(b)(1) of the Higher Education Act (HEA), the authority for schools to make Federal Perkins Loans ended on September 30, 2014.
  - Schools were given limited authority to continue to make loans to certain students beyond September 30, 2015.
  - Section 461(b)(2) of the HEA includes a narrow "grandfathering" provision that allows schools to make Federal Perkins Loans to certain students for up to five additional years (through September 30, 2020), to enable students who received loans for award years that end prior to October 1, 2015, to continue or complete their course of study.
- b. Perkins Loan Program Extension Act (H.R. 3594, PL 114-105)
  - Signed into law by President Obama on December 18, 2015.
  - Extends the program to permit undergraduate students the ability to receive Perkins Loans through September 2017.
  - After September 2017, no new Perkins Loans will be issued – not even for existing Perkins borrowers.
  - New Perkins borrowers must exhaust their eligibility for federal Stafford Loans (subsidized and unsubsidized) before receiving a Perkins Loan.
  - Existing Perkins borrowers must exhaust their eligibility for federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loans before receiving a Perkins Loan.
  - New Perkins borrowers will receive additional disclosures prior to receiving their first loan disbursement.

c. 2016-2017 Federal Pell Grant Maximum

- The maximum award is \$5,815 – an increase of \$40 from the \$5,775 maximum Pell award in 2015-2016.

d. Gainful Employment (GE)

- GE prepares students for 'gainful employment in a recognized occupation.'
- Passed under the Program Integrity regulations on October 29, 2010, to ensure that students were protected from aggressive or misleading recruiting practices, to provide consumers with better information about the effectiveness of career college and training programs, and to ensure that only eligible students receive aid/eligible programs are funded for aid.
- GE programs are certificate programs at NSU.
- Educational programs offered at for-profit institutions must lead to 'gainful employment in a recognized occupation.'
- Requires institutions to report certain information about students enrolled in GE programs (e.g., tuition and fees, books and supplies, and private loan amounts) and to disclose certain information to prospective students in promotional materials and on websites (e.g., normal time to complete the program, on-time graduation rates, and costs for tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies), placement rates for completers as determined by states or accrediting agencies, and median debt load for completers.
- NSU has reported required GE information.
- The ED will calculate debt-to-earnings ratio for completers of certificate programs to determine if the program leads to gainful employment. There must be at least 30 completers.
- Each certificate program will be rated with one of the following: Passing, Zone, or Failing.
- A certificate program becomes ineligible for federal aid if it fails two of three consecutive years; or if it fails or is in the zone for four consecutive years.
- Loan debt may be high for NSU students who were concurrently enrolled in a certificate and a degree program.

- e. Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA)
- The HEA expired at the end of 2013.
  - This federal legislation includes the entire student loan system, the Pell Grant program for low- and middle-income students, teacher-preparation provisions, and various programs that help disadvantaged students access higher education.
  - Reauthorization of the HEA was expected to be completed in 2015 but did not happen.
  - A primary focus for the Obama Administration was the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) that was signed on December 10, 2015.
  - Since this is an election year, reauthorization of the HEA will not occur until the new administration is in place.
- f. Competency-Based Education (CBE)
- Learning and academic progress are measured through demonstration of competencies rather than through measures of seat time, grade point averages, and attendance patterns.
  - Different assessment techniques include, but are not limited to, direct assessment, prior learning assessment, adaptive learning, and captured lectures.
  - Faculty members are coaches/mentors and evaluators of competencies rather than lecturers.
  - Programs operate on a continuous calendar rather than a semester- or term-based academic calendar, allowing students to progress through a program at their own pace.
  - Programs largely serve adult learners who typically have some college and/or extensive knowledge.
  - Some facets of CBE's approach to education face challenges in meeting the regulatory guidelines required for a program to participate in Title IV programs.
  - In 2015, ED approved approximately 40 institutions to become "experimental sites." These sites have been granted waivers from certain rules that govern federal financial aid. Some of the experimental sites are Antioch University, Capella University, Northern Arizona University, Southern New Hampshire University, and the University of Maryland College.

- Goal of the experimental project is to give schools leeway to develop emerging forms of higher education.

g. Prior-Prior Year (PPY)

- In October 2015, the Obama Administration announced changes to the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) beginning with the 2017-2018 academic year.
- Students and families can report tax income information from an earlier tax year rather than just the prior tax year.
- Prior Year (PY) and Prior-Prior Year (PPY) Comparison

<u>Prior Year (PY)</u>	<u>Prior-Prior Year (PPY)</u>
• Available winter/spring semester; January	• Available fall semester; October
• Only allows income tax information from the previous year	• Allows income tax information from two years ago
• File FAFSA and must make corrections to data once taxes are filed	• Income taxes already filed and can be transferred from the IRS website from two years ago
• Incorrectly aligned with college application calendar	• Better aligned with college application calendar
• Makes it difficult to meet priority filing deadlines, which must be met to qualify for some forms of financial aid	• Removes conflicts with priority filing deadlines, which must be met to qualify for some forms of financial aid
• Financial aid information available nearing college decision deadline dates	• Financial aid information available further in advance of college decision deadlines
• Forced more stressful and less-informed college and financial aid decisions	• Allows for more at-ease, informed college and financial aid decisions

- h. Revised Pay As You Earn (REPAYE) Student Loan Repayment Plan
- Became available to students as of December 17, 2015.
  - For most federal loans including
    - Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans
    - Direct PLUS loans made to students
    - Direct Consolidation Loans that do not include PLUS loans (Direct or FFEL) made to parents
  - Similar to Pay As You Earn (PAYE) Repayment Plan with a few differences
    - Borrowers are not required to meet partial financial hardship requirements to qualify for the plan. On this plan, regular monthly payments would generally be equal to 10% of the borrower's discretionary income, divided by 12 months.
    - If a borrower misses his or her annual recertification deadline on REPAYE, their loans are exited from the plan and placed on a special Alternative Repayment Plan, which will likely raise their regular monthly payment amount.
    - If the borrower wants to re-enter REPAYE, the regular monthly payment amount is adjusted to make up the difference between the amount they paid under the Alternative Repayment Plan and the amount they would have paid under REPAYE if the amount of the REPAYE payments would have been more than the Alternate Repayment Plan.
    - Loan forgiveness is granted after 20 years of qualifying payments if the borrower took out loans for their undergraduate studies, or 25 years of qualifying payments if the borrower has any loans for their graduate or professional-level studies.
    - As with the Income-Based Repayment Plan and the PAYE Repayment Plan, students do not have to pay the accrued interest (interest not covered by their regular monthly payment amount) on Subsidized Loans for the first three consecutive years of repayment on REPAYE.
    - After the first three consecutive years of repayment on Subsidized Loans and for the full REPAYE repayment period on Unsubsidized Loans, students only have to pay 50% of accrued

interest (interest not covered by their regular monthly payment amount).

- After the first three consecutive years of repayment on Subsidized Loan and for the full REPAYE repayment period on Unsubsidized Loans, students only have to pay 50% of accrued interest (interest not covered by their regular monthly payment amount).

## **II. State of Florida Updates**

### **i. Florida Resident Access Grant (FRAG)**

- Remained at \$3,000 annually

### **j. Reporting Requirements**

- Federal loan data for all students has to be reported to the Florida Department of Education.
- Previously, we reported an annual cumulative amount for the federal loan programs.
- Now, we are required to report the loans borrowed for individual students on an academic year basis only if the students received a state aid.

## **III. Institutional Updates**

### **k. NSU Student Health Insurance**

- Student Health Insurance (with the exception of contract negotiations) joined ESS in June 2016 and is part of the Bursar's Office.

### **l. Revised 2016-2017 Academic Calendar**

- The approved calendar has two start dates in the Winter 2017 (201730) semester.
  - January 3, 2017 (for many of the HPD and the JD (Law) programs)
  - January 9, 2017 (for all other programs)

m. Academic Scheduling Proposal

- The Provost and COO convened a university-represented Scheduling Task Force (led by ESS) to develop an academic schedule based on a block schedule model, with an associated policy, procedures, trainings, and communications.
- The goal of the academic schedule is to improve scheduling operations by coordinating, communicating, and centralizing the numerous functions and roles between the academic/administrative units and the ESS Scheduling Department.
- A block schedule is a standard set of meeting days and times for classes.
- The university wants to maximize space utilization, improve oversight, remove duplication of efforts, and provide consistency to meet scheduling standards, expectations, and faculty/student/NSU community needs.
- The block schedule is a Monday/Wednesday/Friday; Tuesday/Thursday model.
- M/W/F has a 50-minute block and T/TH has a 75-minute block.
  - Lunch is 1 hour.
  - Dinner is 45 minutes.
  - Classes will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 10:00 p.m. However, a few programs have classes that will end at either 10:15 or 10:30 p.m.
- The schedule will be implemented in two phases.
  - Phase 1 - Undergraduate (including HPD undergraduate programs) and Graduate (excluding HPD) Programs.
  - Phase 2 - HPD Graduate, HPD Professional, and LAW Programs.
- The schedule will also assist our external constituencies who rent or use NSU space.
- The Task Force received feedback from the deans, faculty, staff, and students.
  - Two student representatives served on the Task Force.
- The new academic schedule will be effective beginning with the 2017-2018 academic year.