
Introduction



This volume of the Federal Student Aid (FSA) Handbook discusses how to calculate, award, and disburse the proper amounts for the various Title IV programs.

RECENT CHANGES

Here are some of the significant changes to Volume 3 for the 2014-15 award year:

Chapter 1

- Added sidebar on minimum program length, with cross-reference to full discussion in Volume 2, Chapter 2.
- Added sidebar on open-entry coursework and determining academic calendar type.
- Credit-hour to clock-hour conversion formula sidebar guidance expanded and clarified.
- Guidance and example on Direct Loan periods when a student transfers to a new school extensively updated per revised 34 CFR 685(301)(a)(10). Sidebar with regulatory citation added.

Chapter 2

- Limitations to tuition and fees guidance expanded and updated, including rules for tuition discounting, overtime charges, and finance charges. New sidebar added on limitation to tuition and fees, with HEA and regulatory citations.
- Added note on using non-9 month EFC's when calculating for periods other than 9 months, with cross-reference to AVG for full discussion and requirements of non-9 month EFCs.
- Sidebar describing COA treatment for distance education students added.

Program and systems information online

www.fsadownload.ed.gov

Software:

- Direct Loan Tools
- EDconnect
- EDEExpress for Windows
- SSCR for Windows

Technical References and User Guides for:

- CPS (ISIR, Summary of Changes, etc.)
- COD
- Electronic Data Exchange
- EDEExpress Packaging

www.ifap.ed.gov

- Federal Registers
- Electronic Announcements
- Dear Partner/Colleague Letters
- FSA Assessment modules: Student Eligibility—

www.ifap.ed.gov/qahome/fsaassessment.html

Comments? Questions?

If you have any comments or questions regarding the FSA Handbook, please contact Research and Publications via email at fsaschoolspubs@ed.gov.

Chapter 3

- Updated sidebar on sequester-mandated reductions to Iraq & Afghanistan Service Grant awards during the 2014-15 award year.
- Pell payment schedules sidebar updated with website and DCL citation.
- Full page example on transfer students and calculating remaining Pell eligibility added.
- Pell LEU guidance updated, Pell Grant LEU dispute sidebar added.
- NSLDS reporting requirement sidebar added.

Chapter 4

- Added footnote on “low-income” school eligibility and the Teacher Cancellation Low Income (TCLI) program, with URL citation for the TCLI website.
- Added regulatory citation for TEACH Grant required counseling.

Chapter 5

- Added new guidance on when one is required to report academic year and loan period dates to COD.
- Added sidebars “Reporting academic year and loan period to COD” and “Reporting non-credential teacher certification program information,” with Dear Colleague Letter/E-Announcement citations.
- Updated dates and amounts in effect of sequester on loans section.
- New guidance added on managing direct loans in modules and intersessions. New sidebar on COA for intersessions and modules added.
- Remaining loan eligibility on transfer/program change example updated to reflect changes to 34 CFR 685.301(a).
- 150% rule guidance updated and expanded, particularly with regard to exceptions to the maximum eligibility period and what happens when a borrower exhausts their maximum eligibility period. 150% rule sidebar updated with regulatory citations and 150% website URL.
- Default sidebar added, including regulatory citations.

Chapter 7

- Awarding when a program gains Title IV eligibility in the middle of a term guidance added.
- Basic packaging example clarified and expanded.