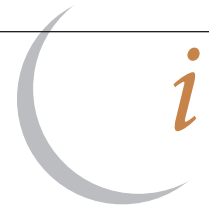

Introduction



This volume of the Federal Student Aid (FSA) 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 you must consider when reviewing an application for aid from the FSA programs, such as whether the student is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, whether the applicant is making satisfactory academic progress, and whether he or she has a defaulted FSA loan. To answer these questions you receive information about the student from 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 of Education (The Department) provides updates to schools in the form of Dear Colleague Letters (DCLs). These and other releases, such as *Federal Register* notices and electronic announcements containing system updates and technical guidance, are available on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) website (ifap.ed.gov).

The FSA Handbook does not cover the operation of software. For schools using software from the Department, there are technical references on IFAP that explain how the software operates. Schools using third-party software should consult the vendor's reference materials for technical guidance.

RECENT CHANGES

Here are some of the significant changes to *Volume 1 for 2019-2020*:

Chapter 1:

- Sidebar on the timing of eligibility for Ability-To-Benefit (ATB) Alternatives & Eligible Career Pathway programs (ECP) added.
- ATB options and Eligible Career Pathways Programs sidebar updated with revised citations.

Program and systems information online

IFAP's Software & Other Tools

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

Student Eligibility—

<https://ifap.ed.gov/FSAAssessments/StudentEligibility20182019.html>

Satisfactory Academic Progress —

<https://ifap.ed.gov/FSAAssessments/SatisfactoryAcademicProgress20182019.html>

- SAP prohibited practices FAQ added.

Chapter 2:

- Expanded guidance in “citizenship issues” sidebar.
- Description/requirements for eligible noncitizens categories updated: Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs), Parolees, and Battered-Immigrants qualified aliens.
- “Using the SAVE system for third-step verification” section revised and expanded.
- Revised guidance in “Using the SAVE system for third-step verification” section.
- Updated “Interpreting the SAVE response” section.
- “Requesting a new DHS verification number” sidebar renamed “Resend record to matches process” and new process described.
- New U.S. citizenship and eligible noncitizens documents examples added.

FSA Coach

ANN-13-21

FSA Coach, a self-paced, comprehensive online guide to the Title IV programs, has been updated for domestic schools. For more information, see: <https://ifap.ed.gov/ifap/fsacoach.jsp> COACH for foreign schools will be updated in the future; monitor IFAP for forthcoming training announcements.

Questions or comments?

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

Chapter 3:

- Updated chapter throughout for the wind down of the Perkins Loan program.

Chapter 6:

- Added new Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarship Act sidebar. Eligibility for children of fallen heroes described, citations to law and E-Announcement added.
- Revised Perkins wind down sidebar with updated citations.
- Perkins guidance deleted. No Perkins disbursements of any type are permitted under any circumstances after June 30, 2018.
- Loans awarded or disbursed after authority expired subsection added.