

Introduction



This volume of the SFA Handbook discusses the eligibility requirements for students and parent borrowers and your responsibilities in checking to make sure 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 SFA 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 SFA 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.

Throughout the year, the Department provides updates to schools in the form of Dear Colleague Letters and Action Letters. These letters, and other information (such as Federal Register notices), are available on the *Information for Financial Aid Professionals* (IFAP) web site (<http://ifap.ed.gov>). The Department also posts system updates and technical guidance announcements on the IFAP site.

Schools using software from the Department also receive desk references and other materials that explain how the software operates. This publication doesn't cover the operation of specific pieces of software. Schools using third party software should consult the reference materials they receive from the software vendor.

RECENT CHANGES

The primary changes to the 2001-2002 *Student Eligibility* volume are the elimination of the paper financial aid transcript (FAT), its replacement with the transfer monitoring process, and the new regulations establishing a three-year conditional period for cancellation of SFA loans due to total and permanent disability (see Chapter 3 for discussion of these issues). Of course, many minor edits were made to clarify issues and keep dates current. In particular, you may want to review the new images that we've included for immigration documents (chapter 2).

Program and systems information on-line

Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG)
www.sfadownload.ed.gov
Technical References and Users Guides for—

- CPS
- *Electronic Data Exchange*
- *RFMS EDE Pell*
- *Direct Loans*
- *SSCR*
- *FISAP*
- *Packaging*

IFAP at ifap.ed.gov

- *Federal Registers*
- *Action Letters*
- *Dear Partner Letters*



The other changes to this volume are organizational: some of the chapters in last year's Student Eligibility volume were removed to form the new *Application and Verification Guide*. As that title suggests, it comprises the subjects relating to applying for federal aid and verifying applicants. The rest of the student eligibility material remained in this volume.

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