

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 2017-18 award year:

Chapter 1

- COD technical reference sidebar added, with citations and contact info for the COD School Relations Center.
- Clarified guidance on weeks of instructional time.
- Added the “two-week” rule to description of requirements for standard term academic calendar.
- Described the limited circumstances in which periods of clinical work, such as medical and education program work performed outside the classroom, may be included in a standard term.
- Credit-to-clock-hour conversion sidebar added, with regulatory citation and credit-hour Q&A.

Chapter 2

- Guidance on fees clarified—graduation fees may be included in COA in certain circumstances.
- New COA, academic calendar, and enrollment status guidance added on when a student takes a break in the middle of a term.
- Added note on test prep class costs—such costs may not be included in COA.

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 Pell Grant award amounts throughout for 2017-18.
- Added links for 2017-18 Pell Grant payment schedules and related E-Announcements and Dear Colleague Letters.
- Updated Sequester reductions and related Dear Colleague Letter citations for Pell Grant and Iraq & Afghanistan Service Grants.
- Clarified guidance on minisessions—if minisessions/intersessions are not combined to create a standard term, and the minisession/intersession overlaps with another term, the program must be considered a nonterm program.
- Added section and sidebar on Year-Round Pell.
- Added link to the 2017-18 ISIR Guide (see Pell & Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants LEU sidebar).
- Added sidebar on restoring Pell Grants for students who attended closed schools.
- Added sidebar on Pell Total Eligibility Used (TEU) for students who attended a closed school.

Chapter 4

- Updated TEACH Grant sequester reduction amounts for 2017-18.
- Added E-Announcement link for discussion of the Teacher Cancellation Low Income Program.
- Added Campus-Based call center contact info in TEACH Grant resources sidebar.

Chapter 5

- Added DL Tools for Windows sidebar.
- Added new E-Announcement in 150% & transfer students to Subsidized Loan Eligibility Time Limitation (150% rule) sidebar.
- Added 150% Rule FAQ sidebar.
- Added NSLDS reporting sidebar with E-Announcement citation.
- Added sidebar on transferring from a closed school and the 150% limit.
- Added E-Announcement citation in common reporting issues sidebar.
- Added E-Announcement citation for review of the Direct Loan process graphic.
- Updated the methods of MPN processing, with addresses.

Chapter 6

- Added new sidebar: Underuse of funds.
- Added Perkins Q&A sidebar.
- New sidebar on the revised Perkins MPN, added.
- Revised awarding Perkins Loans guidance, including deadlines for undergraduate students, and returning Perkins federal share.
- Added sidebar on FWS community service requirement, with regulatory citation.
- Added new section “Community service requirement, penalty, waivers,” including commonly denied and accepted waiver reasons.

Chapter 7

- Added description of and link to the Financial Aid Shopping Sheet.
- Moved guidance from Volume 4 on recalculation into Chapter 7 of this Volume.

