

November 2011

News To Know

**Office of Student Financial Assistance,
Navigating your Financial Future**

NyFF offers free resources for your upcoming college nights

It's that time of year! Parents and students are excited to learn more about how to pay for college and what school to select. As you prepare for your upcoming college nights please be aware there are many NyFF topics and materials to choose from.

- **Seeking Financial Aid**
- **School and Life Management**
- **Career Planning**
- **Managing your Budget**
- **Managing your Credit**
- **Repayment of your Student Loans**

Order the materials you need today through the NyFF [website](#) so you're prepared for your upcoming events. Contact your Outreach Representative for assistance.

Navigating Your Financial Future (NyFF)

Online Workshops

These workshops are available 24/7 for students who prefer to learn at their own pace on their own time. Each topic has a built in quiz component and will generate a confirmation page upon completion. Click on the icon to begin your session now.

On Campus Workshops

A Default Prevention representative will be on campus to present financial topics requested by the school. The representative will be available afterwards to answer any student loan questions. Click on the icon to see our calendar of upcoming presentations.

Entrance or Exit Counseling

The Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) is pleased to offer you an Internet-based option to fulfill the loan counseling requirements. To complete the Initial Loan Counseling requirement, click on the "Entrance" button. To complete the Exit Loan Counseling requirement, click on the "Exit" button. Once you have started a session, you must complete it. If you exit the session prior to completion, you will be required to begin again. Each session should take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

State Scholarship & Grant Programs

November

Bright Futures Academic Top Scholars awardees are notified via their financial aid history web pages of initial eligibility.

December

December 1 – The *Initial Student Florida Financial Aid Application* for next award year funding is available on the website via: www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org

- Select **State Grants, Scholarships & Applications**
- Select **Apply Here**, then
Initial State Student Application

Program applicants are responsible for checking their application and certification statuses on this website before the program deadlines.

Students check the status of their financial aid application and correspondence received from OSFA on the website via: www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org

- Select **State Grants, Scholarships & Applications**
- Select **Application Status & Award History**

Important Announcements

2012-2013 ISIR Guide

The Federal Student Aid has announced the posting of the [2012-2013 ISIR Guide](#). The ISIR Guide assists financial aid administrators (FAAs) in interpreting student information on the Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR). ISIRs contain processed student information reported on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), as well as key processing results and National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) financial aid history information. ISIRs are sent electronically to institutions by the Central Processing System (CPS).

Fraud in Postsecondary Distance Education Programs

The Department of Education is providing guidance to colleges to address potential fraud in the Federal student aid programs at institutions of higher education that offer distance education programs. This [letter](#) provides an overview of the fraud schemes that the Department's Inspector General (IG) detected, and recommends immediate steps that institutions can take to detect and prevent fraud. In this letter is also described further actions that institutions can take and that the Federal government is committed to taking, including increasing technical assistance to institutions of higher education, the convening of a Department-wide task force on distance education fraud, and plans for recommending legislative and regulatory changes to address the relevant issues.

2012-13 National Training for Counselors & Mentors (NT4CM)

NT4CM is available for any individual who advises students and their families on how to fund education beyond high school.

Registration is open for the following confirmed locations:

Sanford, Tampa, and Weston. Please visit our training [website](#) to register.

Common Manual Changes

Several changes have been approved to the Common Manual by guarantor representatives who serve on the Common Manual Governing Board. You can view the details of these changes at www.commonmanual.org.

OSFA's Outreach Team Contact information

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The OSFA Philosophy

The Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) has the ability to offer its partners and customers something few public agencies can, the ability to shape OSFA programs and services based on their specific needs and concerns. OSFA provides financial aid workshops, publications, better services for participants, and helps fund scholarship and grant programs. If a participant has a problem or suggestion, the OSFA management team listens and makes every effort to implement a solution that meets their needs. Public dollars deserve the kind of accountability OSFA provides in financing education.