

September 2012

# News To Know

The Office of Student Financial Assistance is pleased to announce the upcoming 2013-14 National Training for Counselors & Mentors (NT4CM).

The National Training for Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM) provides **free** training and support for counselors and mentors who assist students and their families in preparing financially for college. Professional trainers provide comprehensive, up-to-date information regarding federal and state student aid programs, scholarship searches, and financial aid fraud. Participants learn how to access **free** resources such as fact sheets, brochures, and PowerPoint presentations to help them educate their students about the financial challenges associated with pursuing a postsecondary education. After the initial training, participants continue to receive ongoing information and support during the academic year.

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

**Registration is open for:** [Miami, Naples, Orlando, Panhandle, and Pembroke Pines.](#)

Tampa will soon open.

# Navigating Your Financial Future (NyFF)

OSFA encourages you to check out our websites at [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org) and [www.navigatingyourfuture.org](http://www.navigatingyourfuture.org). Each website has helpful information for students, parents, schools, and counselors. At [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org) viewers can learn about state scholarship and grant programs and their eligibility requirements. Students will gain insight into pursuing a postsecondary education by visiting [www.navigatingyourfuture.org](http://www.navigatingyourfuture.org).

**Navigating Your Financial Future (NyFF)** offers a variety of FREE financial literacy products and services to students, parents, and postsecondary institutions.

Below is a list of [Online Brochures](#)

- Debt Management Overview
- Financial Aid
- Career Planning
- Repayment of your Student Loan
- School and Life Management
- Managing Your Budget
- Managing Your Credit

# State Scholarship & Grant Programs

## September

- Grade and Hours Report deadline for current summer term for Bright Futures restoration eligibility.

## October

- Term 1 Disbursement Eligibility Report (DER) due 30 days after the last day of drop/add.

## November

- Bright Futures Academic Top Scholars awardees are notified via their Financial Aid Recipient History screens of initial eligibility.

# Important Announcements

## Shopping Sheet

As part of an ongoing effort to help students understand the costs of a postsecondary education each academic year, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) has prepared a "[Shopping Sheet](#)." This individualized standard financial aid form assists students with understanding their costs before making the final decision on which postsecondary institution to enroll. The Shopping Sheet, developed by ED partnered with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, will allow students to easily compare financial aid packages offered by different postsecondary institutions.

In addition, the Shopping Sheet clarifies the costs and responsibilities of student loans before students have enrolled. It outlines their total estimated annual costs, institutional rates of completion and default, and provides information about students' potential monthly loan payments after graduation. Ultimately, this tool provides students and their families with useful information that can assist students in making a logical decision about where to attend college as well as help them better understand the debt burdens they may face after graduation.

Institutions of higher education interested in adopting the Shopping Sheet may contact ED at [ShoppingSheet@ed.gov](mailto:ShoppingSheet@ed.gov) for additional information.

To learn more about President Obama's comprehensive proposal to make college more affordable, please visit the [President's Fact Sheet of January 27, 2012](#).

# Important Announcements

## Gainful Employment Electronic Announcement #40

**Modifications to Gainful Employment (GE) Functionality** is now Available on the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS). Federal Student Aid is pleased to announce additional functionality for institutions that choose to update the GE Program information they previously reported, including adding students that should have been reported for the 2006-07 through the 2010-11 award years. Described in the [announcement](#) are the changes to the GE Program functions of the NSLDS, which include the following:

- Data Element Fields Removed
- Updates for GE Data Corrections
- New Record Type for Batch Files
- New GE Data Extract File Report
- Revised Submittal Template

Contact Information

## 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.