

April 2013

News To Know

Bridging The Gap

Recent data collected by the U.S. Department of Education (ED) states that there is a strong correlation between completion of the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) and college enrollment, especially within low-income populations. Filing a FAFSA is the gateway to accessing federal, state, and institutional funds for college.

As Financial Aid Administrators (FAA), you see the outcome of these statistics with the students you serve daily.

At the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA), we work diligently to bridge the gap for those schools and students who do NOT have strong FAFSA completion rates. With the help of the FAFSA Completion Project, offered by Federal Student Aid, secondary schools can now be privy to the number of students who have completed a FAFSA and reach out to those seniors.

The data collected is displayed in spreadsheets, broken down by state or territory, and includes the high school name and city. At the postsecondary level, you are aware of high schools that feed into your institution on a regular basis. OSFA's Outreach Representatives can provide assistance to the school counselors and students.

We strongly encourage you to review the data from the secondary schools in your local region and then target your financial aid office outreach to those schools that may be struggling to get their students enrolled in college. Visit <http://studentaid.ed.gov/about/data-center/student/application-volume/fafsa-completion-high-school> to review the data.

Together, let's strive to increase FAFSA completion as well as enrollment in postsecondary institutions!

Let's work hard to help Florida's students achieve college access – together we are better!

Navigating Your Financial Future (NyFF)

Assistance with Your Default Prevention Plan

Did you know that student financial behavior impacts your postsecondary institution, especially your annual Cohort Default Rate?

The Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) provides guidance to school personnel in the implementation of default prevention management activities. Having a default prevention action plan in place strengthens the foundation of your students' financial futures.

OSFA offers dedicated assistance to your institution. [Regional Outreach Representatives](#) are available to provide guidance to you and your students with this process.

Working with your institution, we are committed to supporting your efforts to educate borrowers on their rights and responsibilities. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact any OSFA Outreach Representative.

State Scholarship & Grant Programs

May

May – Postsecondary institutions begin Grade and Hours reporting for previous summer, fall, and spring terms. Due to OSFA 30 days after the last day of classes or June 30, whichever comes first.

May 1 – The *2013-14 Renewal Application for Institutional Eligibility* opens. The deadline to file is June 7.

May 17 – Postsecondary institutions send Grade and Hours to OSFA for centralized programs:

- Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program
- Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans
- José Martí Scholarship Challenge Grant Fund
- Rosewood Family Scholarship Program

May 30 – **Deadline** for current year 2012-13 Bright Futures reinstatement/restoration applicants to apply for funding for this year at www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org.
Select:

- **State Grants, Scholarships & Applications**
- **Apply Here**
- **Reinstatement/Restoration Application**

June 30 – State of Florida fiscal year ends for state scholarship and grant programs.

Important Announcements

Implementation of the Financial Aid Shopping Sheet

<http://ifap.ed.gov/dpclatters/GEN1305.html>

On July 24, 2012, Secretary Arne Duncan posted an [open letter to college presidents](#) asking for the voluntary adoption of the Financial Aid Shopping Sheet. On July 25, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) published [Dear Colleague Letter GEN-12-12](#), releasing the Shopping Sheet format and requesting institutional commitment to use this format. As of December 2012, [nearly 600 institutions](#) committed to adopting the Shopping Sheet. ED is continuing its work with institutions and software developers to provide guidance regarding the implementation of the Shopping Sheet.

Title IV Funding Contact Information

Florida College Access Network (F.C.A.N.)

Webinar: The Certificate – Florida’s Post-secondary Workhorse

On January 17, 2013, the Florida College Access Network (F.C.A.N.) hosted a webinar on postsecondary certificates in Florida. If you missed this valuable information, you may review the information [here](#).

2013-14 Pell Grant Payment Schedules

<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/dpclatters/GEN1306.html>

- Maximum Scheduled Award - \$5,645 (\$95 increase)
- Maximum Eligible EFC – 5081

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.