

February 2014

News To Know

2014-15 Financial Aid Shopping Sheet

In July 2012, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) released the Financial Aid Shopping Sheet format and asked institutions to voluntarily commit to supplying it to prospective students for the 2013-14 academic year. As of December 2013, over 1,950 institutions reported their commitment to ED.

Throughout the last year, ED's process for determining updates to the Shopping Sheet included meeting with stakeholders and reviewing comments obtained through the ShoppingSheet@ed.gov mailbox. The feedback indicated that institutions and financial aid administrators are becoming more familiar with the Shopping Sheet template and more comfortable providing it to prospective students. Feedback from students and guidance counselors also supported modest modifications for the 2014-15 Shopping Sheet. A summary of changes and template are provided at [GEN-13-26: 2014-2015 Financial Aid Shopping Sheet in PDF Format, 116KB, 3 Pages](#) and [2014-2015 Shopping Sheet Template in PDF Format, 117KB, 2 Pages](#).

This year, ED is releasing all components needed to complete institutional Shopping Sheets (HTML specifications and the institutional metric data file) as a compiled batch.

All components may be accessed at <http://ifap.ed.gov/dpcletters/GEN1326.html>.

Institutions interested in adopting the Shopping Sheet for the 2014-15 academic year or wishing to provide feedback, may contact ED at ShoppingSheet@ed.gov.

Navigating Your Financial Future (NyFF)

Florida C.A.N.!

Local College Access Networks: Achieving Goal 2025

Florida C.A.N.! network partners are united in their dedication to achieving Goal 2025 which is for at least 60% of working-age Floridians to hold a high-quality post-secondary degree or credential by the year 2025. There is much work ahead, as Florida's current postsecondary attainment rate for adults ages 25 to 64 is 37%. Yet by some projections, at least 59% of all job openings in the state will require some form of postsecondary education by as early as 2018.

Local college access networks (LCANs) are collaborative networks representing K-12, higher education, nonprofits, businesses, local governments, and philanthropy, that set shared goals, coordinate programs, and leverage community resources to optimize their impact. LCAN members examine the research and data to understand the barriers to post-secondary education in their communities, identify gaps in services, and coordinate initiatives to fill those gaps. Together, they develop and implement action plans to build a college-going culture in their communities and hold each other accountable for achieving these goals through shared metrics.

Florida C.A.N.! supports the development and growth of local college access networks through technical assistance, tools and resources, and grant opportunities. **Those interested in joining or forming a local college access network in their communities should** contact [Florida C.A.N.!](#) for more information. Partners are also available to speak to groups interested in learning more about Goal 2025 and local college access networks.

State Scholarship & Grant Programs

Postsecondary Institution Contact and Participation Information

It is very important that postsecondary institution's contact information be current.

To log in and update contact information, visit the OSFA website at www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org:

- Select **State Grants, Scholarships & Applications**
- Select **Postsecondary Institutions**

- Under **Institution Information**, select **Update Contact Information**

If you need assistance with this process, you may contact Carl Vinson at Carl.Vinson@fldoe.org.

February

February 1 – The *Reinstatement/Restoration Application* is available to students on the website at www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org:

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

March

- Florida Legislative Session begins March 4. Follow session activities via Online Sunshine at www.leg.state.fl.us/Welcome/.
- Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program initial 7th semester evaluations and award notifications are posted to students' financial aid history web pages.

Important Announcements

Supreme Court Ruling on the Defense of Marriage Act and the Implications for the Title IV Student Financial Assistance Programs

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) letter, DCL ID:GEN-13-125, provides important information on the use of "marriage" and "spouse" for Title IV Student Financial Assistance Programs and on completion of the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA), under the Supreme Court's decision invalidating Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (United States v. Windsor).

Until this ruling, ED had interpreted all provisions of Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), affecting the FAFSA consistent with Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). Section 3 of DOMA prohibited all federal agencies from recognizing same-sex marriages for purposes of federal programs, including the student financial assistance programs authorized under Title IV of the HEA (Title IV HEA programs). Specifically, Section 3 provided that "the word 'marriage' meant only a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife, and the word 'spouse' referred only to a person of the opposite sex who is a husband or a wife." In *Windsor*, the Supreme Court held that Section 3 of DOMA was unconstitutional because it violated the principles of due process and equal protection. Upon review of the *Windsor* decision, ED is providing the following information concerning the application of *Windsor* to the Title IV HEA programs.

For purposes of the Title IV HEA programs, a student or a parent is considered married if the student or parent was legally married in any domestic or foreign jurisdiction that recognizes the relationship as a valid marriage, regardless of where the couple resides. ED is applying a "place of celebration" rule and, accordingly, has determined that any legal marriage that is recognized by the jurisdiction in which the marriage was celebrated will be recognized for Title IV HEA program purposes without regard to whether the marriage is between persons of the same sex or opposite sex, and without regard to where the couple resides. This determination applies to both a student and to the parents of a dependent student. It also applies to a student attending an institution located in a jurisdiction that recognizes same-sex marriage and in a jurisdiction (e.g., a state) that does not recognize same-sex marriage. Further, this determination applies only to marriages and does not apply to registered domestic partnerships, civil unions, or similar formal relationships recognized under state law. Additionally, this determination is relevant to all questions concerning marriage and marital status on the FAFSA.

For further information and implications for FAFSA completion and Expected Family Contribution (EFC) calculation visit: [GEN-13-25: Supreme Court Ruling on the Defense of Marriage Act and the Implications for the Title IV Student Financial Assistance Programs in PDF Format, 44KB, 5 Pages.](#)

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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.