

# NEWS TO KNOW



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

JANUARY 2015



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## College Board Reports College Pricing Currently Not Accelerating

From the November 13, 2014, *National Council of Higher Education Resources*:

“Today, the College Board released its 31st annual report on *Trends in College Pricing*, which found that college pricing is not currently accelerating although prices have increased significantly over the last 30 years. College prices today are on average 3.5 times higher than they were 30 years ago, which is a significant increase.

According to the report, the rate of growth in tuition and fees slowed between 2013-14 and 2014-15, to 2.9 percent for in-state students (paying an average of \$9,139) and 3.3 percent for out-of-state students at public colleges (paying an average of \$22,958). Public 2-year college tuition rose 3.3 percent, and private 4-year colleges are charging 3.7 percent more than last year. The rapid increase in tuition and fees at public 2-year colleges between 1984-85 and 1994-95, followed by 20 years of more moder-

ate increases, has produced an average annual growth rate of 3.1 percent per year beyond inflation during this 30-year timeframe. Over the same 30-year period (1984-85 to 2014-15), average published tuition and fees at private 4-year colleges rose by 146 percent (from \$12,716 to \$31,231); the average price at public 2-year colleges rose by 150 percent (from \$1,337 to \$3,347), and the increase for in-state students at public 4-year institutions was 225 percent (from \$2,810 to \$9,139).

The report also highlights that the college cost differential in growth varies dramatically across the country when examined on a state-by-state basis; similarly, there is no correlation with the amount of grant aid provided in each state and the increases in pricing by state institutions.

The *Trends in College Pricing 2014 report* can be found on the College Board [website](#). ”

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION



## Important Update on Federal Student Aid Reporting

November 21, 2014, National Council of High Education Resources:

### Clearinghouse Ends Reporting Arrangement with Direct Loans

"In a recent email communication to schools, guaranty agencies, servicers, and other community organizations, the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) announced that effective November 14, 2014, Federal Student Aid (FSA) elected to end its Direct Loan processing relationship with the Clearinghouse.

As a result:

- Servicers can no longer access information on Direct Loan bor-

rowers via NSC's secure member site (access to FFEL and private loan borrower information is not affected).

- Servicers will no longer receive weekly enrollment status change updates on Direct Loan borrowers from the Clearinghouse.
- The Clearinghouse will route all deferment requests and borrower inquiries received from Direct Loan borrowers to NSLDS since it no longer has any information to assist them and it will not be able to determine which federal student loan servicer is servicing the borrower's loan.

In separate communications between NCHER and the Clearinghouse, NSC clarified that Student Status Confirmation Reports (SSCR) will continue without interruption.

However, in summary, NSC will no longer be providing Direct Loans and Direct Loan servicers with a weekly notification of enrollment statuses.

It is important to note that beginning in September 2014, the Clearinghouse worked with NSLDS to schedule a monthly SSCR for every school. FSA has communicated to the Clearinghouse that it believes the monthly SSCR process is sufficient, although NSC does not agree and believes that the change will increase the number of school deferment forms generated by Direct Loan servicers prompted by the increase in borrower phone calls regarding enrollment status stemming from the now less frequent reporting. NSC confirmed that it will continue to maintain the weekly notification service for Federal Family Education Loans (FFEL) and private education loans."

## OF INTEREST

### "I have Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and I can use the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)? Say what?!"

**I have DACA and my parents are citizens/ residents. Can I fill out the FAFSA form?** Yes, only for the purpose of getting the student aid report.

**I am undocumented and do not qualify for DACA; what should I do?** You may not use FAFSA form online but you should consider asking the schools you are interested in if they would accept the College Scholarship Service (CSS) Profile provided by the College Board to determine need.

**I am a citizen or eligible non-citizen but my parents are undocumented, Can I still fill out the FAFSA?** Yes, as a citizen or eligible non-citizen you should fill out the FAFSA because you are eligible for federal financial aid. For your parents section you should input 000-00-0000 for SSN #."

To view this webinar, presented by **United We Dream**, *Dream Educational Empowerment Program (DEEP)* & *Own the Dream Campaign*, go to [webinar](#).

## OF INTEREST...continued

From the December 1 edition of the *National Council of Higher Education Resources*.

“As covered by *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, a study released by Complete College America – a nonprofit group heavily financed by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation – focuses on the pitfalls and additional expense of taking more than two or four years to complete associate or bachelor’s degrees, respectively. Titled “[Four-Year Myth](#)”, the report recommends, among other things, that colleges return to the standard of 120 credit hours for a bachelor’s degree and 60 hours for an associate degree, so that students taking 15 credits per semester can graduate on time.”

From the November 26 edition:

“College Abacus has a web tool that allows people applying for college to enter financial and other personal data and calculates three estimates of the price they might actually pay once colleges offer them scholarships, by utilizing calculators on individual colleges’ websites.”

## FINANCIAL AID RESOURCES AND TOOLS

[Learn more about what Mapping Your Future has to offer](#)

Mapping Your Future is committed to helping students, families, and schools navigate the higher education and student loan processes through trusted career, college, and financial aid counseling and resources.

[Mapping Your Future offers SchoolExpress – electronic option for schools to retrieve data](#)

Schools using Mapping Your Future’s Online Counseling can increase the efficiency of their office by using some of the electronic processes offered by Mapping Your Future, such as SchoolExpress.

**Perkins Liquidation and Assignment** — November 13, 2014, electronic announcement provides information available in a permanent, centralized location on the [Campus-Based Processing Information Page](#) on the [Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Website](#). From the IFAP web site’s home page, click on the Processing Resources box then click on the Campus-Based Processing Information link. Perkins Liquidation and Assignment information is highlighted in an orange box on the right side of the page.

**FSA Training Conference** — Beginning on November 19, presentations from the 2014 FSA Training Conference for Financial Aid Professionals will be posted, as they become available. Please go to the FSA Conference website (<http://fsaconferences.ed.gov/atlanta14.html>) and click on the sessions and agenda link to view posted presentations.

**TFAP** — Federal Student Aid’s Training for Financial Aid Professionals website <http://www2.ed.gov/offices/OSFAP/training/index.htm>. This website contains information on current and future training activities and learning resources.

**IFAP** — Dear Colleague letters — <http://www.ifap.ed.gov/ifap/>. These letters contain information on Campus-Based Programs, Financial Partners, Pell Grant Program, General Distribution Letters and Training Announcements for current and prior years.



## Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida (ICUF)

A diverse association of 31 private, education institutions, they award 25 percent of Florida’s bachelor degrees and one-third of all degrees. ICUF institutions are non-profits, Florida-based and accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges & Schools (SACS). They serve more than 155,000 students at 135 sites around Florida and offer bachelor degree opportunities on 13 state college campuses.

These institutions are funded through student tuition that can be paid using federal loans; federal Pell Grants; Florida Bright Futures Scholarships and other merit scholarships; pre-paid tuition plans; need-based assistance; institution awards; scholarships from the Florida Independent College Fund; and the Florida Resident Access Grant (FRAG). Nearly 95 percent of full-time undergraduate students at ICUF institutions receive financial aid.

ICUF statistics:

- 58% of students are Florida residents
- 46% of Florida undergraduate students are minorities
- Students finish bachelor degrees in an average of 4.1 years
- Various sources of financial aid for 94% of full-time undergraduates, with institutional aid averaging nearly \$11,000 per student receiving institutional aid
- Budget is more than \$5 billion





## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### JANUARY

- Any fall term state reconciliations should be completed
- Bright Futures eligible Academic Top Scholars should be funded

### UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

#### CGS! FLORIDA HOST SITES — FEBRUARY 2015

We are excited to announce that we have 59 host sites this year!  
Be sure to visit

[http://www.navigatingyourfinancialfuture.org/CGS!FLORIDA/  
Locations.aspx](http://www.navigatingyourfinancialfuture.org/CGS!FLORIDA/Locations.aspx) for host site

locations and the site coordinators in your area.

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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, prompt 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.

The News to Know is now available on the [Policy, Regulations, and Guidance](#) page of our website. Previous editions may be viewed on our [Archives](#) page.

### **Contact OSFA**

**Tallahassee, FL**

**Toll-free State Programs: 1-888-827-2004**

**E-mail: [OSFA@fldoe.org](mailto:OSFA@fldoe.org)**

**Toll-free Federal Loans: 1-800-366-3475**

**Locally: 1-850-410-5200**

**[Click here](#) to contact  
an OSFA Outreach  
Representative about  
your institution's needs.**