

In addition to a general session, ED staff will offer interest sessions featuring only ED staff, participate in two sessions with other NASFAA members and also staff a resource room at the conference. Descriptions of each of these offerings is featured below.

Interest Sessions Featuring ED Staff

Department of Education staff will offer a variety of interest sessions at the NASFAA National Conference. Most of these sessions will be offered multiple times. The session titles and descriptions are as follows:

Application (FAFSA) Processing Update

This session will provide important information on changes to the 2009-2010 FAFSA and the CPS system. Presenters will also share preliminary ideas, including a draft FAFSA, for the 2010-2011 year.

Direct Loan Servicing – Working with Schools

This session will provide information on how the Direct Loan Servicing System performs its functions and how the Department's servicer works with schools to support the school's current students as well as their former students. Emphasis will be placed on how the Department will work with schools to continue to provide default aversion assistance.

Experimental Sites – A New Beginning

This session will provide information on the new Department's new approach to the Experimental Sites Initiative authorized by the Higher Education Act. Presenters will discuss the next solicitation of experiments and the criteria under which proposals will be evaluated. Some examples of the kinds of experiments that might be considered will be provided.

Federal Methodology Changes

This session will review changes made to the calculation of a student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC) as a result of recent legislation. Examples of topics include: Definition of an Independent Student (including Homelessness), Simplified Needs Test, Auto-Zero EFC, Dislocated Worker, Untaxed Income, and Special Combat Pay.

Moving from FFEL to Direct Loan

This session will provide important information for schools that are converting (or are considering converting) from the FFEL Program to the Direct Loan Program. The session will include a discussion of the responsibilities of a school that participates in the Direct Loan Program, the steps required for the conversion, as well as an overview of the processes and procedures used by Direct Lending schools in their interface with the Department.

National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS)

This session will explain recent updates to NSLDS and how schools can use NSLDS data for day-to-day financial aid office operations, such as calculating underlying loan amounts of consolidation loans, checking for changes in student eligibility related to default and overpayments, and checking prior disbursements for transfer students.

New Consumer Disclosure Responsibilities of Institutions

This session will provide a summary of the consumerism and disclosure requirements that institutions must comply with as a result of the Higher Education Opportunity Act. The results of the recently completed negotiated rulemaking on this topic will also be discussed. Topics to be covered include student consumer issues related to campus security and crime reporting, fire safety, textbook costs, etc. In addition, time will be spent on the new school consumerism requirements related to the student loan programs, both federal and private.

The New Perkins Loan Program

This session will provide an overview of the Administration's proposal to modify and expand the Federal Perkins Loan Program. The proposal would expand the program dramatically, in terms of schools and students served, thus providing needed flexibility for all schools to target Perkins Loans.

Public Service Loan Forgiveness and Income-Based Repayment

Presenters will first discuss the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program and how a Direct Loan borrower can be considered for loan forgiveness if employed in a public service job. They will then discuss the new Income Based Repayment (IBR) Plan available to Direct Loan and FFEL borrowers that can limit the monthly payment amount of a borrower.

Simplifying the Financial Aid Application Process

This session will provide an update on proposals to dramatically simplify the process, formulas, and forms used to determine a student's eligibility for Title IV student assistance.

TEACH Grant Program

This session will review the requirements and regulations for the TEACH Grant Program. It will include an overview of the program and a discussion of institutional and program eligibility. It will also cover other program topics such as the student's execution of the Agreement to Serve and the requirements for disbursing a TEACH Grant Award.



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AT THE NASFAA CONFERENCE

Title IV Grant Programs Update

This session will include information about recent statutory, regulatory, and process changes to the Pell Grant, ACG, and National SMART Grant programs. It will include a discussion of "year-round Pell", the expanded student eligibility criteria for ACG and National SMART grants, and the change in the definition of academic year for the ACG and National SMART grant programs.

Title IV Student Loans Update: FFEL, Direct Loans, and Perkins

The session will discuss recent statutory and regulatory changes to the Direct Loan, FFEL, and Perkins Loans program. Topics will include changes to annual and aggregate loan limits, use of professional judgment to provide unsubsidized eligibility, changes to loan counseling requirements, and new PLUS repayment and deferment provisions.

Interest Sessions with Department of Education Staff Participants

Customer Service Interaction – The Financial Aid Office and the Federal Student Information Center

The Federal Student Aid Information Center (FSAIC) handles 6 million calls annually by employing technology and customer service best practices. Applicants contact FSAIC for assistance with issues that fall within the scope of the financial aid office.

This session will feature techniques to train customer service representatives on topics that involve financial aid offices. Share your ideas to enhance these processes to improve training and to provide important guidance to applicants. Discussion will focus on ways to strengthen the relationship between the financial aid community and the FSAIC representatives.

The Student Loan Ombudsman Caucus: Facilitating Creative Solutions for Student Loan Problems and Issues

Learn how the new Student Loan Ombudsman Caucus leverages the Ombudsman network to provide problem resolution training and mentoring, identify and report on trends to support positive change through student loan industry best practices and legislation, and serve as the voice for fair process throughout the student loan life cycle. Most importantly, learn how this network can assist you with hard-to-resolve student loan issues.

Department of Education Resource Room

Schools and other entities can meet with staff from the Department of Education regarding Student Aid related issues. The room will be an area where participants at the conference can ask specific questions and share concerns regarding their participation in Title IV programs. There will be an Ask a Fed area and other staff will be on hand to address COD and NSLDS issues. Information on ED's new Portal and IFAP screens as well as information on IPM (Integrated Partnership Management) will be available here as well.

Hours:

Sunday, July 12 - 2:15 pm – 5:30 pm

Monday, July 13 – 8:00 am – 12:00 pm and 2:45 pm – 5:00 pm

Tuesday, July 14 – 8:00 am – 3:15 pm

General Session

A Department of Education panel will present up to date information on Department of Education activities and initiatives. This will include an update of the recently completed negotiated rulemaking sessions resulting from enactment of the Higher Education Opportunity Act and a status report on the Title IV student aid proposals included in the President's FY 2010 Budget. It will also include a discussion of various simplification proposals being considered by the Administration and the Congress.