Award Letters from A to Z

2019 PASFAA NextPAGE Training
Agenda

➢ Proposed Legislation
➢ Why Change you Award Notification?
➢ What Can Making a Change Do for Your Institution?
➢ What Shouldn’t You Do?
➢ What Should You Do?
➢ Questions
➢ Resources
Simple FAFSA Act of 2017

A Component of the Aim Higher Act Initiative

• Requires any institution receiving Title IV aid to use a standardized financial aid award letter developed by the DOE (Financial Aid Shopping Sheet)

• Must include
  • The total COA
  • The amount of COA covered by federal aid
  • Estimated loan debt upon graduation
  • Student outcome information, and
  • Other information to allow for aid package comparison

• Requires the institution to either
  • Use the Financial Aid Shopping Sheet, OR
  • Include the Shopping Sheet as the 1\textsuperscript{st} page

Read the Bill text here, \url{https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/4416/text}
Understanding the True Cost of College Act of 2019

• Created to standardize “Financial Aid Offer” forms
• Mandates the use of standard language and a standard format
• Requires certain standardized items to be included on the first page
• Stipulates the way loan information must appear

Why Change your Award Notification?

- Improve Clarity
- Provide Transparency
- Increase Understanding

Ability to Make Informed Decisions
What Can Making a Change Do for Your Institution?

Increase Enrollment

Improve Persistence and Completion

Lead to Successful Repayment of Student Loans
Has your office began discussing whether or not to make a change to your award notification?
What Shouldn’t You Do?

Don’t call it a “letter”

How is it delivered?
• Email
• Student Portal

Don’t call it an “award”

Loans

Work Study
What Should You Do?

Offer or Notification
What Should You Do?

• Include the Award Year
• Include the Cost of Attendance
  • Direct costs (Tuition and Fees, Housing and Food)
  • Indirect costs (Books, Supplies, Transportation and Miscellaneous Expenses)
    • This may also include estimated costs for housing and food for off-campus students
What Should You Do?

Components

- Clear separations including pertinent information
  - Grant and/or Scholarship Aid
    - Doesn’t need to be repaid
    - What effects it?
      - Enrollment status
      - Academic Progress
  - Net Cost
    - The difference between the total cost and the cost less all grant/scholarship aid received
What Should You Do?

Components

- Loans
  - Clarify the source (federal, state, institutional, private)
  - List PLUS loans separately (Parent and Graduate)
  - Needs to be repaid

- Work Study
  - Must be earned
What Should You Do?

Next Steps
Accept/Decline Financial Aid
• Where to go
  • Student Portal
    • What to do when they get there
  • Return paper form
    • What office
    • Sign and date

Next Steps
Additional forms
• Work Study
  • Position listings
  • Employment paperwork
• Loans
  • Entrance Counseling
  • MPN
  • PLUS Credit Check
What Should You Do?
Clarity, Transparency, Understanding
Include Pertinent Information

Grant and/or Scholarship Aid
- Doesn’t need to be repaid
- What effects it?
  - Enrollment Requirements
  - Academic Progress Requirements
  - Renewal Requirements

Loans
- Enrollment Requirements
- Academic Progress Requirements
- Needs to be repaid

Work Study
- Must be earned
- How is it earned
Questions?
Resources

