

National Association of Student
Financial Aid Administrators

Model Award Letters

Tri-State Spring Training

March 15, 2012

Agenda

- Chronology
- NASFAA Task Force
 - Commission
 - Goals
 - Core Elements
- Your Input
- Next Steps & Q & A

Chronology

- ED solicits comment in Federal Register, July 2011
- ED holds public meeting, September 2011
- CFPB issues draft Shopping Sheet for public comment, October 2011
- NASFAA forms Award Notification and Consumer Information Task Force, November 2011
- White House issues draft Scorecard, February 2012

Chronology

- ED action directed by HEOA of 2008
 - Convene interested parties to recommend improvements to financial aid offer forms
 - Develop model format
 - Submit recommendations to Congressional authorizing committees
 - Made recommendations and model format widely available

Chronology

- ED public meeting
 - NASFAA's President and CEO Justin Draeger presented position paper and award letter tools:
<http://www.nasfaa.org/EntrancePDF.aspx?id=6670>
 - Diverse opinions presented in panel format
 - After panel presentation, workshop-style brainstorming by all attendees
 - Emphasis on ability to compare award letters across schools

Chronology

- HEOA specified elements to be included in model

1. Cost of attendance (COA)

Tuition and fees	Books and supplies
Room and board	Transportation

2. Financial aid that does not have to be repaid, with conditions
3. Title IV loans, with terms and conditions
4. Net amount student/family will pay [COA – (2 + 3 above)]
5. Source of additional information
6. Other ED-determined information needed to inform borrowing

Chronology

- CFPB working in conjunction with ED on *model* form (“Know Before You Go” initiative)
- White House’s College Scorecard may become *mandatory*
- NASFAA and various other groups support model form(s) but not mandatory standardized format

NASFAA Task Force: Commission

Commission

Examine best practices in award notification and report back to the NASFAA Board of Directors with recommendations on how to improve or standardize elements of an award notification.

NASFAA Task Force: Goals

- Identify best practices for award notifications and dissemination of award notifications
- Develop glossary of standard terminology
- Gather examples of award notifications and consumer information disclosures that illustrate best practices, to serve as resources for other institutions
- Liaise with the Technology Committee to determine whether on-line notifications require different considerations than paper formats

NASFAA Task Force: Goals

- Liaise with admissions, the business office, and registrar's office to understand different points of view on award notifications
- Map a campaign to raise awareness among institutions of need to implement best practices
- Prepare a presentation for the membership to be delivered at the 2012 NASFAA Conference

NASFAA Task Force: Goals

- Provide the Board with recommendations on effective elements, principles, and role of the award letter
- Provide the Board with recommendations for minimizing the quantity but maximizing the effectiveness of student consumer information
- Provide the Board with recommendations regarding the desirability of model formats and whether different models would be needed

Your Input Needed

- Is there need for a model award letter?
- Should the format be a model or a standard?
- Do you believe there should be a core of essential elements on every school's award letter?
- Should award letters be designed with comparability in mind?

Links:

- NASFAA Model Concept Report:
<http://www.nasfaa.org/EntrancePDF.aspx?id=6670>
- White House Draft College Scorecard:
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/education/scorecard>
- CFPB Financial Aid “Shopping Sheet”:
<http://www.consumerfinance.gov/students/knowbeforeyouowe/>

Next Steps & Q&A

Your questions, please!