

Education Bi-Weekly Update

February 2, 2010

FAME News



College Goal Sunday

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's College Goal Sunday event. We have received great comments from students and families who were extremely appreciative of all the assistance they received. College Goal Sunday could not happen without your help, so we thank you!

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Ask FAME

Q: Can a school's academic amnesty/renewal policy be used when calculating a student's satisfactory academic progress (SAP)?

A: An academic amnesty/renewal policy allows students to apply (usually on a one time only basis) to have credits attempted and grades earned in a previous semester excluded from their grade point average calculation. Federal Student Aid program regulations do not make any provision for the concept of academic amnesty/renewal; therefore a school is required to include all courses applicable to a student's academic major as part of the SAP calculation.

The 2009-2010 FSA Handbook, Volume 1, Chapter 1, page 12 provides further clarification.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ The **Advisory Committee on Dental Education** is scheduled to meet on **February 4, 2010**.
- ◆ The next **Wednesday Webinar** is scheduled for **February 10, 2010**.
- ◆ The **FAME Board of Directors** is scheduled to meet on **February 18, 2010**.

State Education Programs

Applications Online

The following applications are now available on the FAME web site:

- [The Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship](#)
- [Dental Loan Program](#)
- [Dental Loan Repayment Program](#)
- [Educators for Maine](#)
- [Quality Child Care Non-Degree students](#)
- [Tuition Waiver \(Foster Care Program\)](#)
- [Tuition Waiver \(Parent Killed in the Line of Duty\)](#)

1099Q Notification

Students who received a State of Maine Grant Award in calendar year 2009 funded with dollars by the NextGen College Investing Plan® will receive a 1099Q Form. For more information regarding the possible tax consequences to recipients of grants and scholarships, please see the following information:

<http://www.irs.gov/individuals/students/article/0,,id=96674,00.html>

<http://www.finaid.org/scholarships/taxability.phtml>

State Legislative Update

The various policy committees have been busy holding work sessions on the Governor's Supplemental Budget. They will report back to the Appropriations Committee, which will hold joint work sessions with policy committees for the next couple of weeks.

The Education Committee held a work session on the Governor's proposed cuts to higher education, including the \$511,552 proposed cut to FAME's student financial assistance programs in FY 11. The committee voted unanimously to support the proposed reductions to FAME. The committee will continue its discussions of cuts to the University and Community College Systems, as some members expressed opposition to any further cuts to these entities.

On January 20, the Education Committee held a briefing on the Opportunity Maine Program. The committee was slated to hold a work session the following day on L.D. 1296, "An Act to Strengthen the Job Creation Through Educational Opportunity Program," but tabled the carried-over bill due to confusion about current amendments to the bill. The committee has yet to schedule another work session, but please stay tuned. If you have interest in this bill, please attend the upcoming work session (when scheduled), tune in via audio or contact your legislator. The Education Committee members and audio may be accessed at: http://www.maine.gov/legis/house/jt_com/edu.htm

On January 22, the Education Committee held a work session on L.D. 352, Senate President Libby Mitchell's veterinary loan program bill. Legislators present voted unanimously Ought to Pass as Amended on the bill. The bill as amended will establish a Maine Veterinary Medicine Loan Program to award, beginning in January 2011, up to two loans annually (up to an aggregate of eight) for Maine residents enrolled in any eligible school of veterinary medicine. The bill makes necessary changes, as well, to the Maine Health Professions Loan Program administered by FAME. Changes include elimination of the Access to Medical Education Program beginning in 2011 and conversion of the Health Professions Loan Program from one that provides forgivable loans to one that will provide low-interest loans for medical, veterinary and dental education to be repaid at varying interest rates depending upon the nature and location of the practice.

On Thursday, January 28, the BRED Committee conducted a review of FAME programs pursuant to the Government Evaluation Act. This exercise occurs every eight years for state agencies and is a chance for the Legislature to assess the effectiveness of programs.

Finally, FAME provided all legislators and the various partisan offices with information about College Goal Sunday. Their help in publicizing this important event is essential to ensuring good attendance and access to financial aid information.

To follow the proceedings of the Legislature and its various joint standing committees, please visit: <http://www.maine.gov/legis/schedules.htm>

Washington D.C. Update

Department Establishes Pell Grant Payment and Disbursement Schedules

On January 13, 2010, the U.S. Department of Education posted Dear Colleague letter P-10-01 on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) website. The letter provides schools with the 2010-2011 Pell Grant payment and disbursement schedule.

The maximum Federal Pell Grant award for the 2010-2011 award year is \$5,550, which is an increase of \$200 from the 2009-2010 award year. The maximum Pell eligible EFC is 4617 with a minimum award for a full-time student of \$1,176.

The complete text of P-10-01 is available at:

<http://ifap.ed.gov/dpcletters/P1001.html>

Verification Worksheets Released

On January 20, 2010, the U.S. Department of Education released the Federal Dependent and Independent 2010-2011 Verification Worksheets. The use of the Department's verification worksheets is not required. An institution is free to use a worksheet of its own design, or a school may choose not to use a worksheet during its verification process.

The 2010-2011 Dependent Verification Worksheet is available at:

<http://ifap.ed.gov/vgworksheets/attachments/1011VerWkshtsDepJan19.pdf>

The 2010-2011 Independent Verification Worksheet is available at:

<http://ifap.ed.gov/vgworksheets/attachments/1011VerWkshtsIndJan19.pdf>

Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) Provisions

Did you know...?

That the HEOA has changed regulations concerning campus based programs to include the following:

- Permits an institution to transfer up to 25 percent of the school's Federal Work Study (FWS) funds to the school's Perkins Loan Program allotment;
- Increases the allocation formula allowance for books and supplies from \$450 to \$600;
- Expands the definition of community service to include the field of emergency preparedness and response;
- Permits institutions to use FWS funds to compensate students employed in projects that teach civics in schools, raise awareness of government functions or resources, or increase civic participation; and
- Specifies that the Federal share of FWS compensation to students may exceed 75 percent.

A full summary of the HEOA provisions are available on IFAP at:

<http://ifap.ed.gov/dpcletters/GEN0812FP0810.html>

GOALS

Outreach Update

- Assisted 28 families complete the FAFSA at Carrabec High School (North Anson) and Madison High School.
- Conducted financial aid nights at Deering High School (Portland), Medomak Valley High School (Waterboro), Portland High School and Lee Academy. Altogether, 110 students and parents attended.
- Worked with 11 students in the Onward Program at the University of Maine at Orono and provided information on budgeting and financial aid.
- Provided information to 30 families at Narraguagus High School (Harrington) regarding preparing and paying for college.

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#)



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