



Upcoming Events

- ❖ The **FAME Board of Directors** will meet on **September 17, 2009** at the FAME Office.
- ❖ The **Higher Education Advisory Council** will meet on **September 24, 2009** at the FAME Office.
- ❖ The **Grants and Scholarships Advisory Committee** is scheduled to meet on **October 1, 2009** at the FAME Office.
- ❖ **Financial Aid 101** will be held at the Augusta Civic Center on **October 9, 2009**.

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FAME News

Wednesday Webinars are Back!

FAME's Wednesday Webinar series is back! Our first training of the academic year, entitled *Preparing Financially for the College Transition* was held on Wednesday, September 9. Wednesday Webinars are scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Our next Webinar is scheduled for October 14 and will cover the basics of federal student loans. More information will be available soon.

Doctors for Maine's Future Scholarship

On August 21 the FAME Board approved the program rule for the Doctors for Maine's Future Scholarship program. FAME staff worked diligently to implement this new program in time to disburse scholarships to students attending medical school this fall.

Ask FAME

Q: Should schools exclude Veteran's Administration Benefits as estimated financial assistance when determining a student's eligibility for State of Maine Grant?

A: Yes, the same Veteran's Administration Benefits that are excluded for Title IV financial assistance should also be excluded when determining State of Maine Grant eligibility. A complete copy of the Program Rule is available at:
<http://www.famemaine.com/FAMERules.asp>.

State Education Programs

Schools participating in the Quality Child Care Scholarship program should have received rosters for the fall semester. If you have not received your roster or have questions, please contact [Claude Roy](#).

FAME's new online Web site portal called EPIC (Education Portal Information Center) will provide enhancements to the certification and payment processing of students receiving funds. For 2009-2010 EPIC will allow schools to process payments on line for the programs listed below.

State of Maine Grant
GEAR UP
Robert Byrd Honors Scholarship Program
Educators for Maine

(All other education programs will be moved to EPIC in time for the 2010-2011 academic year.)

EPIC is scheduled to go live for schools' use on October 5. Confirmation of the go live date as well as a user manual will be provided to all schools.

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Institutions may view their preliminary 2009-2010 rosters for the State of Maine Grant and GEAR UP programs on the current 2008-2009 Web portal. The online 2009-2010 rosters will be available on the current portal until September 24, 2009. On September 25, the current system will be disabled to facilitate the transition to EPIC. Rosters should be available on EPIC for viewing the week of October 5.

Federal Loan Programs

Common Manual

FAME has extra copies of the 2009 Common Manual. Please contact [Jennifer Lanphear](#), and indicate if you would like a paper manual or CD copy.

Washington, D.C. Update

Notice of Negotiated Rulemaking Committee Formation

On September 9, 2009, the U.S. Department of Education announced the formation of two negotiated rulemaking committees. The committees will be responsible for developing proposed regulations concerning (1) foreign schools and (2) the maintenance and improvement of Title IV, Higher Education Act program integrity. Interested parties may submit nominations for committee negotiators until September 25, 2009.

Please send your nominations for negotiators to Patty Chase, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, NW, Room 8034, Washington, DC 20006, or by fax at (202) 502-7874. You may also e-mail your nominations to Patty.Chase@ed.gov.

The announcement can be viewed at:

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-21695.pdf>

Cohort Default Rates Released

The U.S. Department of Education released the Fiscal Year 2007 Official Cohort Default Rates to all eligible schools on September 14, 2009. An electronic announcement has also been posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals website: <http://ifap.ed.gov/ifap>

All schools, both domestic and foreign, enrolled in the Electronic Cohort Default Rate (eCDR) process received their FY 2007 Official Cohort Default Rate and accompanying documentation electronically via their Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) mailbox. Any school not enrolled in the eCDR process may download their cohort default rate and accompanying documentation from the National Student Loan Database System: https://www.nslds.ed.gov/nslds_FAP/secure/logon.jsp

FISAP Deadline Reminder

The U.S. Department of Education sent a reminder to all schools on September 2, 2009 concerning the upcoming October 1, 2009 submission deadline for the 2008-2009 Fiscal Operations Report and the Application to Participate for 2010-2011(FISAP). Timely submission of the FISAP allows continued participation in Campus-Based programs (Federal Perkins Loan, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant and Federal Work-Study).

The FISAP must be electronically submitted through the eCampus-Based website: <https://cbfisap.ed.gov/ecb/CBSWebApp/>. The website allows a school to complete and submit its FISAP online, receive real-time validation edits, and access prior-year data to assist in completing the FISAP.

**Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) provisions:
Did you know...?**

That the HEOA's provisions require an institution to prepare a teach-out plan if the U.S. Department of Education initiates:

- An action to limit, suspend or terminate an institution's participation in any Title IV programs; or
- An emergency action against an institution.

A teach-out plan:

- Is defined as a written plan that provides for the equitable treatment of students if an institution ceases to operate before all students have completed their program of study; and
- Must be prepared in accordance with section 496(c)(4) of the Higher Education Act (Title I, General Provisions, Accreditation, Operating Procedures).

A full summary of the HEOA provisions are available on IFAP at:
<http://ifap.ed.gov/dpccletters/GEN0812FP0810.html>

GOALS

On Wednesday, September 9, Trisha Malloy presented a financial aid overview to high school parents and adult education students at the Livermore Falls Adult Education Center. This session was the first of a four-part series.

Our 4th Annual **"Financial Aid 101: A Training for Counselors & Advisors"** is scheduled for Friday, October 9 at the Augusta Civic Center. This free training is open to all school counselor and college access advisors.