

A Participant's Guide will be required to successfully complete this training session.

Please copy the following URL to download the Participant's Guide

<http://www.ed.gov/FSA/training/materials/pjguide.pdf>



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## Professional Judgment Session Two

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United States Department of Education  
Federal Student Aid



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## Professional Judgment

- The goal of our PJ webinars is to discuss professional judgment options that are available to schools that have an impact on a student's Title IV eligibility.
- School officials are the professionals that are empowered to exercise PJ.
- Nothing in the webinars (options discussed, examples offered, etc.) is meant to imply that a school would be limited, in its exercise of PJ, to what is presented or discussed here.

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**PJ In The HEA, As Amended**

- Section 479A - Discretion of Student Financial Aid Administrators
  - Calculating Expected Family Contribution (EFC)
  - Adjusting Cost of Attendance (COA)
  - Dependent student Unsubsidized Stafford absent parental data and support
  - Refusal to certify loan or certify reduced amount

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**PJ In The HEA, As Amended**

- Section 480(d) Dependency Override

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**PJ in the CFR**

- 34 CFR 690.67(c)  
Waive the acceleration requirement for awarding the second scheduled award of Federal Pell Grant Funds
- 34 CFR 685.301(a)(8)
  - School may refuse to originate a DL

OR

- School may originate a DL at less than the full amount the student is eligible to receive

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**Types Of Possible Professional Judgment**

- Adjusting components of Cost of Attendance
- Adjusting data elements used to calculate EFC
- Performing a Dependency Override
- Establishing eligibility for Unsubsidized Stafford when parent refuses to complete FAFSA and refuses to support student
- Refusing to Originate Student Loan
  - Or originate a lesser amount than the student could otherwise borrow
- Waiving the Acceleration Requirement (2 Pells)

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**Professional Judgment Basics**

- What is a professional judgment?
- What you cannot do in a professional judgment
- Documentation
- Professional judgment is a school choice
- Professional judgment and verification

*Participant's Guide pages 5 & 6*

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**Adjusting Cost of Attendance**

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## Slide 9

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**kc1** kevin.campbell, 5/2/2011

**kc2** kevin.campbell, 5/2/2011

## Adjusting Cost of Attendance

### Case Studies for Mandy and Andrew

- Pause recording
- Read scenarios in workbook for Mandy and Andrew
- Answer questions
- Re-start recording when ready

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## Adjusting Cost of Attendance

### Mandy's Case Study

- Is PJ in this case reasonable?
- What would you ask Mandy?
- What documentation would you collect?
- If you decide to modify COA, by how much?

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## Adjusting Cost of Attendance

### Andrew's Case Study

- Would you consider a PJ for Andrew?
- Why or why not?
- Loan amount (net amt.) needed
- If roommate situation is offered for less \$ and Andrew declines, would you consider PJ?
- Why or why not?

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Adjusting EFC Data Elements

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Adjusting EFC Data Elements

Case Studies for Nina and Donald

- Pause recording
- Read scenarios in workbook for Nina and Donald
- Answer questions
- Re-start recording when ready

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Adjusting EFC Data Elements

Nina's Case Study

- How much is already included in formula?
- What kind of documentation would you collect?
- If you decide to perform PJ, what would you adjust?
- Differences between and adjustment to COA or an EFC Formula element?

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## Adjusting EFC Data Elements

### Donald's Case Study

- What kind of adjustment can be made whether or not eligible for Pell?
- How much does the current IPA account for travel?
- If school adjusts the current IPA to reflect Donald's actual travel, what is the change to the EFC?
- With the recalculated EFC, is Donald eligible for a Federal Pell Grant?
- Do you think PJ is reasonable for Donald?

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## Dependency Override

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## Dependency Override

### Case Studies for Magda and Leon

- Pause recording
- Read scenarios
- Answer questions
- Re-start recording when ready

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**Dependency Override**

Magda's Case Study

- Is Magda dependent or independent?
- Would you perform a dependency override?
- Why or why not?
- Documentation?
- If no dependency override, any other PJ?

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**Dependency Override**

Leon's Case Study

- Is Leon dependent or independent?
- Would you perform a dependency override?
- Why or why not?
- Documentation?
- In no dependency override, would you consider PJ based on parents refusal to support and refusal to complete FAFSA?
- If no PJ, what are Leon's Title IV options?

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**Parent Refusal to Complete FAFSA / Provide Support**

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**Parent Refusal to Complete FAFSA / Provide Support**

Case Studies for Judy and Hector

- Pause recording
- Read scenarios
- Answer questions
- Re-start recording when ready

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**Parent Refusal to Complete FAFSA / Provide Support**

Judy's Case Study

- Without PJ, can Judy receive Title IV assistance?
- Would you consider a dependency override?
- Any other type of PJ?
- If so, what documentation would you collect?
- As a result of PJ, what Title IV assistance can Judy receive?

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**Parent Refusal to Complete FAFSA / Provide Support**

Hector's Case Study

- If no PJ, what Title IV assistance can Hector receive?
- Would you consider a dependency override?
- Any other type of PJ?
- If so, what documentation would you collect?
- As a result of PJ, what Title IV assistance can Hector receive?

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## Denying or Reducing a Federal Direct Loan



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## Denying or Reducing a Federal Direct Loan

Case Studies for Samantha and Robert

- Pause recording
- Read scenarios
- Answer questions
- Re-start recording when ready



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## Denying or Reducing a Federal Direct Loan

Samantha's Case Study

- Has LCSU executed PJ in a responsible manner?
- Would you perform PJ of any type in Samantha's case?
- If so, what and why?



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**Denying or Reducing a Federal Direct Loan**

Robert's Case Study

- What PJ would you consider for Robert?
- Would you consider refusing to originate a DL for Robert?
- Would you consider originating a DL for a lesser amount that Robert would normally be able to borrow?
- If so, either for refusing to originate or originating for a lesser amount, what documentation would you collect?
- How would your PJ decision to refuse DL origination impact other Title IV assistance for Robert?

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**Waiving Two Pell Acceleration**

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**Waiving Two Pell Acceleration**

Case Studies for Eva and Joshua

- Pause recording
- Read scenarios
- Answer questions
- Re-start recording when ready

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## Waiving Two Pell Acceleration

### Eva's Case Study

- Without PJ, will Eva receive ½ time Pell for Summer?
- If not, what amount will she receive?
- Has Eva met the acceleration requirement?
- If not accelerating, will you waive the requirement?
- Why or why not?

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## Waiving Two Pell Acceleration

### Joshua's Case Study

- Has Joshua met the acceleration requirement?
- If PJ is not performed, what amount of Pell can Joshua receive for Spring Quarter?
- Would you perform PJ to waive the acceleration requirement?
- Why or why not?
- If you would, what documentation would you collect?
- If acceleration requirement is waived, what can Joshua receive from Pell for Spring Quarter?

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## Professional Judgment Reminders

- The FAA is the “professional”
- Meant to address situations that are extraordinary and fall outside of ED's need analysis systems
- PJ is a tool that allows a school to have a student's true status evaluated for Title IV eligibility purposes

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**Professional Judgment Reminders**

- Cannot be done as a matter of school policy
- Must be performed on a case by case basis
  - Must not be discriminatory
- Must be documented
- Cannot waive general student eligibility requirements or circumvent the intent of the law

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**Citations and References**

**Participation Guide Appendix A – page 33**

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**Other Resources**

- Recorded PJ webinar Part I
  - Available in the I-Library on IFAP
  - <http://ifap.ed.gov/dpccletters/ANN1017.html>
- FSA Assessments
  - Verification Module
  - Available in Tools for Schools on IFAP
  - <http://www.ifap.ed.gov/qahome/qaassessments/fsaverification.html>

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**Contact Us**

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Thank you!

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