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Macias, Wendy

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2009 5:38 PM  
To: negreg09  
Subject: Simplification of FAFSA processing

The staff of our institution spends a significant amount of time dealing with a code on the FAFSA which alarms students and triggers a "comment code" flag in our system which defers the award process. Both the delay of the award and the concern the message causes to students could be avoided with a process redesign by the FAFSA processing center.

As a graduate medical school many of our students are eligible for extended loan limits under HEAL eligibility approved in regulation. The thousands of medical students throughout the United States are sent messages alarming them that they are near or have exceeded FFEL program limits, when indeed in their circumstances they have not.

The processor has information via the school code and/or type of program the student is pursuing which could be used to tailor the message to the situation of these graduate students. For instance their aggregate limit is 224,000. They also are eligible to borrow funds under PLUS when they can no longer borrow under Stafford. The comment code could be different for graduate students than it is for undergraduates and it would simplify the process as the school receives the FAFSA. A specialized code would also reduce unnecessary alarm by treating graduate students as undergraduate borrowers.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine [REDACTED]

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