

Subpart Q – Gainful Employment (GE) Programs

1. §668.401 Scope and purpose
2. §668.402 Definitions
3. §668.403 Gainful employment framework
4. §668.404 Calculating D/E rates
5. §668.405 Issuing and challenging D/E rates
6. §668.406 Alternate earnings appeals
7. §668.407 Calculating pCDR
8. §668.408 Issuing and challenging pCDR
9. §668.409 Final determination and consequences of GE measures
10. §668.410 Reporting requirements for GE programs
11. §668.411 Disclosure requirements for GE programs
12. §668.412 Calculating, issuing, and challenging completion, withdrawal, and repayment rates and median earnings
13. §668.413 Application requirement for new GE programs
14. §668.414 Certifications for GE programs

§668.401 Scope and purpose. This subpart applies to an educational program offered by an eligible institution that prepares students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation, and establishes the rules and procedures under which--

(1) The Secretary determines that the program is eligible for title IV, HEA program funds;

(2) An institution reports information about the program to the Secretary; and

(3) An institution discloses information about the program to students and prospective students.

§668.402 Definitions. The following definitions apply to this subpart.

Annual earnings rate: The percentage of a GE program's annual loan payment compared to the annual earnings of the students who completed the program, as calculated under §668.404.

Classification of instructional program (CIP) code: A taxonomy of instructional program classifications and descriptions developed by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). The CIP code for a program is six digits. For the purpose of this subpart, a "CIP family" of related programs shares the first two digits of a CIP code, and programs that are "substantially similar" to one another share the first four digits of a CIP code.

Credential level: The level of the academic credential awarded by an institution to students who would complete the program. For purposes of this subpart, the credential levels are: less than one year undergraduate certificate or diploma, one year or longer but less than two years undergraduate certificate or diploma, two years or longer undergraduate certificate or diploma, associate degree, bachelor's degree, post-baccalaureate certificate, master's degree, doctoral degree, and first-professional degree.

Debt-to-earnings rates (D/E rates): The discretionary income rate and annual earnings rate as calculated under §668.404.

Discretionary income rate: The percentage of a GE program's annual loan payment compared to the discretionary income of the students who completed the program, as calculated under §668.404.

Gainful employment program (GE program): An educational program offered by an institution under §668.8(c)(3) or (d) and identified by a combination of the institution's six-digit Office of Postsecondary Education ID (OPEID) number, the program's six-digit CIP code as assigned by the institution or determined by the Secretary, and the program's credential level.

GE measures: The D/E rates and the program cohort default rate as described in this subpart.

Length of a program: The amount of time in weeks, months, or years that is specified in the institution's catalog, marketing materials, or other official publications for a student to complete the requirements needed to obtain the degree or credential offered by the program.

Poverty Guideline: The Poverty Guideline for a single person in the continental United States as published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and available at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty> or its successor site.

Program cohort default rate (pCDR): The percentage of a GE program's students who defaulted on their loans, as calculated under §668.407.

Prospective student: An individual who has contacted an eligible institution for the purpose of requesting information concerning admission to that institution.

Student: A regular student, as defined in 34 CFR 600.2, who received title IV, HEA program funds for attending a GE program at an eligible institution.

Title IV loan: A loan authorized under the Federal Perkins Loan Program (Perkins Loan), the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFEL Loan), or the William D. Ford Direct Loan Program (Direct Loan).

Two-year period: The period covering two consecutive award years that are--

(a) The third and fourth award years prior to the award year for which the D/E rates are calculated pursuant to §668.404. For example, if D/E rates are calculated for award year 2014-2015, the two-year period is award years 2010-2011 and 2011-2012; or

(b) For a program whose students are required to complete a medical or dental internship or residency, the sixth and seventh award years prior to the award year for which the D/E rates are calculated. For example, if D/E rates are calculated

for award year 2014-2015, the two-year period is award years 2007-2008 and 2008-2009. For this purpose, a required medical or dental internship or residency is a supervised training program that--

(1) Requires the student to hold a degree as a doctor of medicine or osteopathy, or as a doctor of dental science;

(2) Leads to a degree or certificate awarded by an institution of higher education, a hospital, or a health care facility that offers post-graduate training; and

(3) Must be completed before the student may be licensed by a State and board certified for professional practice or service.

§668.403 Gainful employment program framework.

(a) General. A program provides training that prepares students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation if the program--

(1) Satisfies the applicable application and certification requirements in §§668.413 and 668.414; and

(2) Is not an ineligible program under the provisions for the D/E rates described in paragraph (b)(1) or the provisions for the pCDR described in paragraph (b)(2).

(b) GE measures. (1) Debt-to-earnings rates (D/E rates). For each award year and for each eligible GE program offered by an institution, the Secretary calculates two D/E rates, the discretionary income rate and the annual earnings rate, using the procedures in §§668.404-668.406.

(2) Program cohort default rate (pCDR). For each fiscal year and for each eligible GE program offered by an institution, the Secretary calculates the pCDR using the procedures in §668.407.

(c) Outcomes of GE measures.

(1) D/E rates.

(i) A GE program is "passing" the D/E rates if--

(A) Its discretionary income rate is less than or equal to 20 percent; or

(B) Its annual earnings rate is less than or equal to eight percent.

(ii) A GE program is "failing" the D/E rates if--

(A) Its discretionary income rate is greater than 30 percent or the income for the denominator (the GE program's mean or median annual or discretionary earnings) of the rate is negative or zero; and

(B) Its annual earnings rate is greater than 12 percent or the denominator is zero.

(iii) A GE program is in the "zone" for the purpose of the D/E rates if it is not a passing GE program and its--

(A) Discretionary income rate is greater than 20 percent but less than or equal to 30 percent; or

(B) Annual earnings rate is greater than eight percent but less than or equal to 12 percent.

(iv) For the purpose of the D/E rates, a GE program is an ineligible GE program if it--

(A) Is failing the D/E rates in two out of any three consecutive award years for which the program's D/E rates are calculated; or

(B) Is not passing the D/E rates in one out of any four consecutive award years for which the program's D/E rates are calculated.

(2) pCDR.

(i) A GE program is “passing” the pCDR measure if its pCDR for the most recent fiscal year for which pCDR is calculated is less than 30 percent.

(ii) A GE program is “failing” the pCDR measure if its pCDR for the most recent fiscal year for which pCDR is calculated is greater than or equal to 30 percent.

(iii) For the purpose of the pCDR measure, a GE program is ineligible if it fails the pCDR measure for three consecutive fiscal years for which the program’s pCDR is calculated.

(d) Discontinued programs. Except as provided in §668.404(f) with respect to D/E rates, the Secretary calculates D/E rates for a GE program for each award year in which students completed that program during the two-year period, and calculates a pCDR for a program for any fiscal year for which a pCDR is calculated under §668.407, without regard to whether the institution discontinued that program during the award or fiscal year, as applicable.

§668.404 Calculating D/E rates.

(a) General. For each award year, the Secretary calculates D/E rates for a GE program as follows:

(1) Discretionary income rate = annual loan payment / (the higher of the mean or median annual earnings - (1.5 x Poverty Guideline)).

(2) Annual earnings rate = annual loan payment / the higher of the mean or median annual earnings.

(b) Annual loan payment. The Secretary calculates the annual loan payment for a GE program by--

(1) Determining the median loan debt of the students who completed the program during the two-year period, based on the lesser of--

(i) The loan debt incurred by each student as determined under paragraph (d); and

(ii) The total amount of tuition and fees the institution assessed each student for attendance in the program.

(2) Amortizing the median loan debt over a 10-year repayment period using an annual interest rate that is the lesser of--

(i) The annual interest rate on Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans for undergraduate students who were in repayment in effect on the day the Secretary calculates the D/E rates for the award year; or

(ii) The lowest annual interest rate on Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans for undergraduate students who were in repayment during the six years prior to the end of the two-year period.

(c) Annual earnings. (1) The Secretary obtains from the Social Security Administration (SSA), under §668.405, the most currently available mean and median annual earnings of the students who completed the GE program during the two-year period and who are not excluded under paragraph (e); and

(2) The Secretary uses the higher of the mean or median annual earnings to calculate the D/E rates.

(d) Loan debt. In determining the loan debt for a student, the Secretary--

(1) Includes the amount of title IV loans that the student borrowed for attendance in the GE program (Federal PLUS Loans made to parents of dependent students, Direct PLUS Loans made to parents of dependent students, and Direct Unsubsidized Loans that were converted from TEACH Grants are not included), any private education loans that the student borrowed for attendance in the GE program and that were required to be reported by the institution, and any credit extended by, or on behalf of, the institution, such as from institutional financing or payment plans, that the student is obligated to repay after the

student's completion of the program regardless of who holds the debt;

(2) Attributes all of the loan debt incurred by the student for attendance in any--

(i) Undergraduate GE program at the institution to the highest credentialed undergraduate GE program subsequently completed by the student at the institution; or

(ii) Post-baccalaureate GE program at the institution to the highest credentialed graduate degree GE program completed by the student at the institution; and

(3) Excludes any loan debt incurred by the student for attendance in programs at other institutions. However, the Secretary may include loan debt incurred by the student for attending GE programs at other institutions if the institution and the other institutions are under common ownership or control, as determined by the Secretary in accordance with 34 CFR 600.31.

(e) Exclusions. The Secretary excludes a student from both the numerator and the denominator of the D/E rate calculations if the Secretary determines that--

(1) One or more of the student's title IV loans were in a military-related deferment status for at least 60 consecutive days during the calendar year for which the Secretary obtains earnings information under paragraph (c);

(2) One or more of the student's title IV loans are under consideration by the Secretary, or have been approved, for a discharge on the basis of the student's total and permanent disability, under 34 CFR 674.61, 682.402, and 685.212;

(3) The student was enrolled on at least a half-time basis for at least 60 consecutive days in an eligible institution during the calendar year for which the Secretary obtains earnings information under paragraph (c);

(4) The student completed a higher credentialed GE program at the institution subsequent to completing the program; or

(5) The student died.

(f) D/E rates not calculated. The Secretary does not calculate D/E rates for a GE program if--

(1) Fewer than 10 students completed the program during the two-year period; or

(2) SSA does not provide the mean and median earnings for the program as provided under paragraph (c).

(g) Transition period.

(1) If a GE program would be failing or in the zone based on its draft D/E rates calculated in accordance with paragraphs (a)-(f) for award years 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-2017, or 2017-2018, the Secretary calculates transitional draft D/E rates for the program by using--

(A) The median loan debt of the students who completed the program during the most recently completed award year; and

(B) The earnings used to calculate the draft D/E rates under paragraph (c).

(2) For the award years listed in paragraph (g)(1), the Secretary determines the final D/E rates for the program by using the lower of the draft D/E rates calculated under paragraphs (a)-(f) or the transitional draft D/E rates calculated under this paragraph (g).

(3) The institution may challenge the transitional draft D/E rates under the procedures in §668.405 and may appeal the transitional final D/E rates under §668.406.

§668.405 Issuing and challenging D/E rates.

(a) Overview. For each award year beginning with award year 2014-2015, the Secretary determines the D/E rates for a GE program at an institution by--

(1) Creating a list of the students who completed the program during the applicable two-year period and providing it to the institution, under paragraph (b);

(2) Allowing the institution to correct the information about the students on the list, as provided in paragraph (c);

(3) Obtaining from SSA the mean and median annual earnings of the students on the list, as provided in paragraph (d);

(4) Calculating draft D/E rates and providing them to the institution, as described in paragraph (e);

(5) Allowing the institution to challenge the median loan debt used to calculate the draft D/E rates, as provided in paragraph (f);

(6) Calculating final D/E rates and providing them to the institution, as provided in paragraph (g); and

(7) If the program could become ineligible based on its final D/E rates for the next award year for which D/E rates are calculated, allowing the institution to appeal the final D/E rates by submitting an alternate earnings data survey, as provided in §668.406.

(b) Creating the list of students. (1) The Secretary selects the students to be included on the list by--

(i) Identifying the students who completed the program during the applicable two-year period from the data provided by the institution under §668.410; and

(ii) Removing any student who is excluded under §668.404(e).

(2) The Secretary provides the list to the institution.

(c) Institutional corrections to the list. (1) The Secretary presumes that the list of students and the identity information for those students are correct unless, as set forth in procedures established by the Secretary, the institution provides evidence to the contrary satisfactory to the Secretary. The institution bears the burden of proof that the list is incorrect.

(2) No later than 45 days after the date the Secretary provides the list to the institution, the institution may--

(i) Provide evidence showing that a student should be included on or removed from the list pursuant to §668.404(e); or

(ii) Correct or update a student's identity information and the student's program attendance information provided for a student on the list.

(3) After the 45-day period expires, the institution may no longer seek to correct the list of students or revise the identity or program information of those students.

(4) The Secretary considers the evidence provided by the institution and either accepts the correction or notifies the institution of the reasons for not accepting the correction. If the Secretary accepts the correction, the Secretary uses the corrected information to create the final list.

(d) Obtaining earnings data. The Secretary submits the final list to SSA. For purposes of this section, SSA returns to the Secretary--

(1) The mean and median earnings of the students on the list whom SSA has matched to SSA earnings data, in aggregate and not in individual form; and

(2) The number, but not the identities, of students on the list that SSA could not match.

(e) Calculating draft D/E rates. (1) The Secretary uses the higher of the mean or median annual earnings provided by SSA to calculate draft D/E rates for a GE program, as provided in §668.404.

(2) If SSA reports that it was unable to match one or more of the students on the final list, the Secretary does not include in the calculation of the median loan debt the same number of students with the highest loan debts as the number of

students whose earnings SSA did not match. For example, if SSA is unable to match three students, the Secretary does not include the three students with the highest loan debts in the calculation of the median loan debt.

(3)(i) The Secretary notifies the institution of the draft D/E rates for a GE program and provides the mean and median earnings obtained from SSA and the individual student loan information used to calculate the rates, including the loan debt that was used in the calculation for each student.

(ii) The draft D/E rates and the data described in paragraphs (b) through (e) are not considered public information.

(f) Institutional challenges to draft D/E rates.

(1) The Secretary presumes that the loan debt information used to calculate the median loan debt for the program under §668.404 is correct unless the institution provides evidence, as provided in paragraph (f)(2), that the information is incorrect. The institution bears the burden of proof to show that the loan debt information is incorrect, and to show how it should be corrected.

(2) No later than 45 days after the Secretary notifies an institution of the draft D/E rates for a GE program, the institution may challenge the accuracy of the loan debt information that the Secretary used to calculate the median loan

debt for the program under §668.404 by submitting evidence, in a format and by a process determined by the Secretary, that demonstrates that the median loan debt calculated by the Secretary is incorrect.

(3) In a challenge under this section, the Secretary does not consider--

(i) Any objection to the mean or median annual earnings that SSA provided to the Secretary;

(ii) More than one challenge to the student-specific data on which a draft D/E rate is based for a GE program for an award year; or

(iii) Any challenge that is not timely submitted.

(4) The Secretary considers the evidence provided by an institution challenging the median loan debt and notifies the institution of whether the challenge is accepted or the reasons why the challenge is not accepted.

(5) If the information from an accepted challenge changes the median loan debt of the program, the Secretary recalculates the program's draft D/E rates.

(6) Except as provided under §668.406, an institution that does not timely challenge the draft D/E rates for a program waives any objection to those rates.

(g) Final D/E rates. (1) After expiration of the 45-day period and subject to resolution of any challenge under

paragraph (f), a GE program's draft D/E rates constitute its final D/E rates.

(2) The Secretary informs the institution of the final D/E rates for each of its GE programs by issuing the notice of determination described in §668.409(a).

(3) After the Secretary provides the notice of determination to the institution, the Secretary may publish the final D/E rates for the program.

(h) Conditions for corrections, challenges, and appeals.
An institution must ensure that any material that it submits to make any correction or challenge under this section, or an appeal under §668.406, is complete, timely, accurate, and in a format acceptable to the Secretary as described in this subpart and consistent with any instructions provided to the institution with the notice of its draft D/E rates and the notice of determination.

§668.406 Alternate earnings appeals for D/E rates.

(a) General. If a GE program could become ineligible based on its final D/E rates for the next award year for which D/E rates are calculated, an institution may appeal its most recent final D/E rate by proving that the difference between the mean or median annual earnings the Secretary obtained from SSA and the mean or median annual earnings derived from an institutional survey conducted in accordance with the requirements in paragraph (b) is sufficient to warrant revision to the final D/E rates.

(b) Survey requirements. To appeal a final D/E rate under this section, an institution must--

(1) Conduct a survey of earnings information from students who completed the program during the applicable two-year period by following the instructions contained in an NCES-developed Earnings Survey Form issued by the Secretary in a notice published in the Federal Register. The institution may include in the survey earnings information obtained from students who completed the program in the applicable two-year period who did not receive title IV, HEA program funds in addition to students who completed the program in the applicable two-year period who received title IV, HEA program funds;

(2) Certify that the survey was conducted in accordance with the requirements of the NCES Earnings Survey Form; and

(3) Submit an examination-level attestation engagement report prepared by an independent public accountant or independent governmental auditor, as appropriate, that the survey was conducted in accordance with the standards set forth in the NCES Earnings Survey Form. The attestation must be conducted in accordance with the attestation standards contained in the Government Accountability Office's Government Auditing Standards promulgated by the Comptroller General of the United States (available at www.gao.gov/yellowbook/overview or its successor site), and with procedures for attestations contained in guides developed by and available from the Department of Education's Office of Inspector General.

(c) Alternate earnings appeal procedure.

(1) In accordance with procedures established by the Secretary and provided in the notice of draft D/E rates under §668.405 and the notice of determination under §668.409, the institution must--

(i) Notify the Secretary of its intent to use survey earnings data no earlier than the date that the Secretary provides the institution with its draft D/E rates, pursuant to §668.405(f), but no later than three business days after the date the Secretary issues the notice of determination, pursuant to §668.405(g), informing the institution of its final D/E rates under §668.409(a); and

(ii) Submit the survey of earnings and all supporting documentation as provided for under paragraph (b) no later than 60 days after the date the Secretary issues the notice of determination.

(2) An institution that timely submits an alternate earnings appeal that meets the requirements of this section is not subject to the provisions of §668.409(c)-(e) while the Secretary considers the appeal. If the Secretary has published final D/E rates under §668.405(g), the program's final D/E rates will reflect that they are under appeal.

(3)(i) If the Secretary determines that the institution's appeal submission is not sufficient to warrant revising the final D/E rates under §668.409(a), the Secretary notifies the institution of the reasons for the decision, and the D/E rates under §668.409(a) remain the final D/E rates for the program for the award year; or

(ii) If the Secretary determines that the institution's appeal submission is sufficient to warrant revising the final D/E rates, the Secretary recalculates the D/E rates and notifies the institution that the recalculated D/E rates are the final D/E rates for the program for the award year under §668.409(a). If the Secretary has published final D/E rates under §668.405(g), the program's published rates will be updated to reflect the new final rates.

§668.407 Calculating pCDR.

(a) General. For each fiscal year, the Secretary determines the pCDR of a GE program using the same methodology the Secretary uses to calculate the institutional cohort default rate (CDR) pursuant to section 435 of the HEA. The standards and procedures currently in effect are set forth in subpart N of this part.

(b) References in subpart N. In applying the procedures and standards in subpart N to calculate pCDR, the Secretary considers each reference to the "institution" to apply separately to the institution with respect to each of the GE programs at the institution, and considers each provision that describes an action, determination, or consequence that applies to "you" as stating an action, determination, or consequence to apply to the institution separately with respect to each of the GE programs at the institution.

§668.408 Issuing and challenging pCDR.

(a) General. For each fiscal year, the Secretary notifies the institution of the pCDR for a GE program determined under §668.407. The institution may challenge or appeal the pCDR under the procedures in subpart N of this part.

(b) References in subpart N. In applying the procedures in subpart N to this section, the Secretary considers each reference to the "institution" to apply separately to each of the GE programs at the institution, and considers each provision that describes an action, determination, or consequence to apply to "you" as stating an action, determination, or consequence to apply separately to each of the GE programs at the institution.

§668.409 Final determination and consequences of GE measures.

(a) Notice of determination. For each award or fiscal year in which the Secretary calculates a GE measure for a GE program, the Secretary issues a notice of determination informing an institution of the following:

(1) For the D/E rates--

(i) The final rates for the program as determined under §668.404, §668.405 and, if applicable, §668.406;

(ii) The final determination by the Secretary of whether the program is passing, failing, in the zone, or ineligible, as described in §668.403, and the consequences of that determination;

(iii) Whether the program could become ineligible based on its final D/E rate for the next award year for which D/E rates are calculated;

(iv) Whether the institution is required to provide student warnings under paragraph (c); whether the program is subject to the enrollment limits in paragraph (d)(3); and whether the institution must satisfy the requirements for borrower relief for students under paragraph (e); and

(v) If the program could become ineligible based on its final D/E rates for the next award year for which D/E rates are

calculated, instructions for appealing a final D/E rate, pursuant to §668.406.

(2) For the pCDR--

(i) The final pCDR for the program as determined under §668.407 and §668.408;

(ii) The final determination of the Secretary of whether the program is passing, failing, or ineligible, as described in §668.403, and the consequences of that determination; and

(iii) Whether the institution is required to provide student warnings under paragraph (c); whether the program is subject to the enrollment limits in paragraph (d)(3); and whether the institution must satisfy the requirements for borrower relief for students under paragraph (e).

(b) Effective date of Secretary's final determination.

The Secretary's determination as to a GE measure is effective on the date that is specified in the notice of determination. The determination, including, as applicable, the determination with respect to an appeal under §668.406, constitutes the final decision of the Secretary with respect to that GE measure and the Secretary provides for no further appeal of that determination.

(c) Student warnings. For any year for which the Secretary notifies an institution that a GE program could become ineligible based on a final GE measure for the next award or

fiscal year for which the GE measures are calculated, the institution--

(1) For each enrolled student, must provide a written warning directly to each student enrolled in the program no later than 30 days after the date of the notice of determination. The warning must--

(i) State that: "You may not be able to use federal student grants or loans to pay for this program next year because recent graduates are not earning enough compared to how much they took out in student loans, or because the program fails other standards established by the U.S. Department of Education. The Department set these standards to help ensure that students are able to find gainful employment and not burdened by debt they struggle to repay. Programs in violation of these standards risk losing access to federal funds" or any alternative warning language specified by the Secretary in a notice published in the Federal Register;

(ii) Describe the options available to the student to continue his or her education at the institution, or at another institution, in the event that the program loses its eligibility for title IV, HEA program funds; and

(iii) Indicate whether or not the institution will--

(A) Allow the student to transfer to another program at the institution;

(B) Continue to provide instruction in the program to allow the student to complete the program; and

(C) Refund the tuition, fees, and other required charges paid by, or on behalf of, the student for attending the program.

(2) For each prospective student--

(i) At the time the prospective student first contacts the institution about the GE program and before the student signs an enrollment agreement, completes registration, or makes a financial commitment to the institution, must provide a written warning directly to the student stating: "You may not be able to use federal student grants or loans to pay for this program next year because recent graduates are not earning enough compared to how much they took out in student loans, or because the program fails other standards established by the U.S. Department of Education. The Department set these standards to help ensure that students are able to find gainful employment and not burdened by debt they struggle to repay. Programs in violation of these standards risk losing access to federal funds" or any alternative language specified by the Secretary in a notice published in the Federal Register; and

(ii) May not enroll the prospective student in the GE program earlier than--

(A) Three business days after the warning was first provided to the prospective student; or

(B) If more than 30 days pass from the date the warning is first provided to the prospective student, three business days after the institution provides another warning as required by paragraph (c)(2)(i).

(d) Restrictions. (1) Ineligible program. Except as provided in §668.26(d), an institution may not disburse title IV, HEA program funds to students enrolled in an ineligible program.

(2) Period of ineligibility. An institution may not seek to reestablish the eligibility of a program that it discontinued voluntarily and that has been determined to be a failing or zone program, reestablish the eligibility of an ineligible program, or establish the eligibility of a program that is substantially similar to the discontinued or ineligible program, until the end of the third award year following the award year or fiscal year, as applicable, in which the Secretary notified the institution that the program was a failing or zone program or the award year or fiscal year, as applicable, in which the institution discontinued the program.

(3) Enrollment limit. For the 12-month period beginning on the first day of the month after the Secretary notifies an institution that a GE program could become ineligible based on a

final GE measure for the next award or fiscal year for which the GE measure is calculated, except for a GE program that could become ineligible as a result of being determined to be in the zone for the next award year for which D/E rates are calculated, the total number of students eligible for title IV, HEA program funds enrolled in the program may not exceed the number of students receiving title IV, HEA program funds who were enrolled in the program during the previous 12 months.

(4) Restoring eligibility. (i) An ineligible program, or a failing or zone program that an institution voluntarily discontinues, remains ineligible until the institution reestablishes the eligibility of that program under §668.413. For this purpose, an institution voluntarily discontinues a failing or zone program on the date the institution provides written notice to the Secretary that it relinquishes the title IV, HEA program eligibility of that program.

(ii) An institution that voluntarily discontinues a program before the Secretary determines the D/E rates and pCDR for the program may not apply under §668.413 to establish the eligibility of that program or a substantially similar program, until the Secretary issues final D/E rates and pCDR for that program.

(e) Borrower relief. (1) For any year in which the Secretary notifies an institution that a GE program could become

ineligible based on a final GE measure for the next award or fiscal year for which the GE measure is calculated, the Secretary requires the institution to provide for borrower relief for those borrowers who are, or were, enrolled in the program at any time from when the notice is issued through the time that loss of eligibility may occur by--

(i) Submitting a letter of credit (LOC) to the Department or modifying, to the extent required, an LOC previously submitted to the Department in an amount as determined under paragraph (e)(3);

(ii) Entering into a set-aside agreement with the Department as described in paragraph (e)(2) for an amount of funds as determined under paragraph (e)(3); or

(iii) In the case of a public institution, ensuring that the obligation to provide borrower relief, in an amount as determined under paragraph (e)(3), is backed by the full faith and credit of the State.

(2) A set-aside agreement is an agreement with the Secretary under which--

(i) The Secretary sets aside a portion of the title IV, HEA program funds that the institution would otherwise request from the Secretary in an amount as determined under paragraph (e)(3); and

(ii) The institution agrees to disburse the full amount of title IV HEA program funds that would otherwise be disbursed to or on behalf of students but to request Federal funds for those disbursements in the amount of the disbursements less the amount as determined under paragraph (e)(3).

(3) (i) The amount of borrower relief is--

(A) For a program failing the D/E rates measure, the amount by which the median loan debt for the program exceeds the amount that would have been necessary to pass the D/E rates measure multiplied by the number of students enrolled in the program in the previous year; and

(B) For a program failing the pCDR measure, the dollar amount of loan payments that would have been necessary to pass the pCDR measure.

(ii) If borrower relief is required under both GE measures, the amount required is the larger of the amounts determined under this paragraph.

(4) The Secretary provides the institution the data used to calculate the borrower relief amount.

(5) The institution may challenge the Secretary's determination of the borrower relief amount by providing evidence satisfactory to the Secretary that the Secretary inaccurately calculated the borrower relief amount.

(6) An institution must continue to follow the requirements of paragraph (e)(1) pending the Secretary's final determination of an institution's challenge of the borrower relief amount under paragraphs (e)(5) and (e)(7).

(7) The Secretary considers the information provided by the institution in any challenge under paragraph (e)(5) and issues a final determination to the institution of the borrower relief amount. Based on the Secretary's final determination of the borrower relief amount, as applicable, the institution modifies the LOC submitted under paragraph (e)(1) or the institution and the Department amend the set-aside agreement entered into under paragraph (e)(2).

(8) If the program becomes ineligible based on a final GE measure for the next award or fiscal year for which the GE measure is calculated, the Secretary credits amounts recovered from institutional sources under paragraph (e)(1) to those students who are enrolled in the program on the date the notice is issued or on which loss of eligibility occurs in an amount for each student that is proportional to their accumulated debt for attendance in the program.

(9) If the program ceases to be at risk of becoming ineligible when final GE measures are calculated for the next award or fiscal year, the Secretary releases the LOC for the purpose of this paragraph or terminates the set-aside agreement

and provides the amount of funds that were set-aside to the institution, unless an LOC or set-aside agreement is required, with or without modification, to provide for borrower relief under this paragraph arising from a GE measure in that next award or fiscal year.

(f) Loan reduction plan. (1) During the transition period provided in §668.404, beginning in any year in which the Secretary notifies an institution that a GE program could become ineligible based on a final GE measure for the next award or fiscal year for which the GE measure is calculated, instead of providing borrower relief to students under paragraph (e), an institution may choose to implement a loan reduction plan by--

(i) Offering to every student enrolled in the program at the time the Secretary notifies an institution that a GE program could become ineligible based on a final GE measure for the next award or fiscal year for which the GE measure is calculated, for that year and for each subsequent year up to the number of years equal to the length of the program, an institutional grant that replaces some or all of the amount each student borrows to reduce borrowing by an amount based on the borrower relief requirements in paragraph (e); and

(ii) Offering to every student who enrolls in the program after the Secretary has notified an institution that a GE program could become ineligible based on a final GE measure for

the next award or fiscal year for which the GE measure is calculated, for that year and for each subsequent year until the program achieves a passing GE measure or, at maximum, up to the number of years equal to the length of the program, an institutional grant that replace some or all of the amount each student borrows to reduce borrowing by an amount based on the borrower relief requirements in paragraph (e).

(2) An institution may not coerce or require students to participate in the loan reduction plan.

(3) An institution must notify the Secretary of its adoption of a loan reduction plan and describe how it will be implemented no later than 30 days after receiving a final determination under paragraph (a) that the institution must provide borrower relief.

(4) The Secretary may require additional information about the institution's loan reduction plan, disapprove the plan, or require the institution to submit periodic reports on its implementation of the plan.

(5) For any award year during the transition period described in §668.404(g) in which the institution implements a loan reduction plan under this paragraph to the satisfaction of the Secretary, the Secretary waives the requirements in paragraphs (c), (d), and (e). However, the Secretary may reinstate any of these requirements if the Secretary at any time

disapproves the plan or determines that the loan reduction plan is not satisfactorily implemented.

§668.410 Reporting requirements for GE programs.

(a) In accordance with procedures established by the Secretary, an institution must report--

(1) For each student enrolled in a GE program during an award year--

(i) Information needed to identify the student and the institution the student attended;

(ii) The name, CIP code, credential level, and length of the program;

(iii) Whether the program is a medical or dental program whose students are required to complete an internship or residency, as described in §668.402;

(iv) The date the student began initial attendance in the program;

(v) The student's attendance dates and attendance status (i.e., enrolled, withdrawn, or completed) in the program during the award year; and

(vi) The student's enrollment status (e.g., full-time, less than full-time) as of the first day of the student's enrollment in the program;

(2) If the student completed or withdrew from the GE program during the award year--

(i) The date the student completed or withdrew from the program;

(ii) The total amount the student received in Federal Perkins Loan funds for attendance in the program;

(iii) The total amount the student received from private education loans for attendance in the program that the institution is, or should reasonably be, aware of;

(iv) The total amount of institutional debt the student owes any party after completing or withdrawing from the program; and

(v) The tuition and fees charged to the student for the program; and

(3) As described in a notice published by the Secretary in the Federal Register, any other information the Secretary requires the institution to report.

(b)(1) An institution must report the information required under paragraph (a) no later than--

(i) July 31, 2015, for information from the 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013, and the 2013-2014 award years; and

(ii) For the 2014-2015 award year and subsequent award years, October 1 following the end of the award year, unless the Secretary establishes a later date in a notice published in the Federal Register.

(2) For any award year, if an institution is unable to provide all or some of the information in paragraph (a), the

institution must provide the Secretary with an explanation of why the missing information is not available.

§668.411 Disclosure requirements for GE programs.

(a) Disclosure template. An institution must use the disclosure template provided by the Secretary to disclose information about each of its GE programs to enrolled and prospective students. The Secretary identifies the information that must be included in the template in a notice published in the Federal Register. That information may include, but is not limited to:

(1) The primary occupations (by name and SOC code) that the GE program prepares students to enter, along with links to occupational profiles on O*NET (www.onetonline.org) or its successor site.

(2) The GE program's completion and withdrawal rates as calculated by the Secretary under §668.412.

(3) The length of the program.

(4) The total number of students enrolled in the program during the most recently completed award year.

(5) As calculated by the Secretary under §668.412, the loan repayment rate for any one or all of the following groups of students who entered repayment during the two-year period:

(i) All students who attended the program.

(ii) Students who completed the program.

(iii) Students who withdrew from the program.

(6) The total cost of tuition and fees, and the total cost of books and supplies that a student would incur for completing the program within the length of the program.

(7) The placement rate for the program, if the institution is required by its accrediting agency or State to calculate a placement rate.

(8) As calculated by the institution, the median loan debt, including all of the loans described in §668.404(d)(1), incurred by any one or all of the following groups of students:

(i) Students who completed the program during the most recently completed award year.

(ii) Students who withdrew from the program during the most recently completed award year.

(iii) All of the students described in paragraph (a)(8)(i) and (ii).

(9) The median earnings of any one or all of the following groups of students:

(i) Students who completed the program during the two-year period used by the Secretary to calculate the most recent D/E rates for the program under this subpart.

(ii) Students who were in withdrawn status at the end of the two-year period used by the Secretary to calculate the most recent D/E rates for the program under this subpart.

(iii) All of the students described in paragraph (a)(9)(i) and (ii).

(10) A link to the U.S. Department of Education's College Navigator Web site, or its successor site.

(11) If applicable, with respect to the occupations for which the program prepares the student as disclosed by the institution under paragraph (a)(1), whether completion of the program satisfies the educational prerequisites for professional licensure in the State in which the program is offered and in any other State included in the institution's Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), as published by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget and available at www.census.gov/population/metro/ or its successor site.

(12) If applicable, whether the program holds the programmatic accreditation necessary for an individual to obtain employment in the occupation for which the program prepares the student.

(b) Disclosure updates. (1) In accordance with procedures and timelines established by the Secretary, the institution must update at least annually the information contained in the disclosure template with the most recent data available for each of its GE programs.

(2) Within 30 days of receiving notice from the Secretary that the institution must provide student warnings for the

program under §668.409(c), the institution must update the disclosure template to include those warnings for both enrolled and prospective students.

(c) Web link to disclosure information. (1) On any Web page containing general, academic, or admissions information about a GE program, the institution must provide a prominent, readily accessible, clear, conspicuous, and direct link to the disclosure template for that program.

(2) An institution that offers a GE program in more than one location or format (e.g., full-time, part-time, accelerated, different lengths) may publish a separate disclosure template for each location or format if it would result in clearer disclosures under paragraph (a). An institution that chooses to publish separate disclosure templates for each location or format must ensure that each disclosure template clearly identifies the applicable location or format.

(3) In addition to other actions the Secretary may take, the Secretary may require the institution to modify its Web page if the link for the disclosure template is not prominent, readily accessible, clear, conspicuous, and direct.

(d) Promotional materials. (1) All promotional materials that an institution makes available to prospective students that identify a GE program by name or are otherwise promoting a specific GE program must include--

(i) The information on the disclosure template in a prominent manner; or

(ii) Where space or airtime constraints would preclude a full disclosure of the required information, the Web address (URL) of, or the direct link to, the disclosure template, provided that, the institution identifies the URL or link as "Important Information about the educational debt, earnings, and graduation rates of students who attended this program."

(2) Promotional materials include, but are not limited to, an institution's catalogs, invitations, flyers, billboards, and advertising on radio, television, the Internet, and social media.

(3) The institution must ensure that all promotional materials, including printed materials, about a GE program are accurate and current at the time they are published, approved by a State agency, or broadcast.

(e) Direct distribution to prospective students.

(1) An institution must provide, as a separate document, a copy of the disclosure template to a prospective student.

(2) Before the student signs an enrollment agreement, completes registration, or makes a financial commitment to the institution, the institution must obtain written confirmation that the student received a copy of the disclosure template.

§668.412 Calculating, issuing, and challenging completion, withdrawal, and repayment rates and median earnings.

(a) General. Under the procedures in this section, the Secretary determines the completion rates, withdrawal rates, repayment rates, and median earnings an institution must disclose under §668.411 for its GE programs, notifies the institution of that information, and provides the institution an opportunity to challenge the calculations.

(b) Calculating completion, withdrawal, and repayment rates and median earnings.

(1) Completion rate. The Secretary calculates the completion rate of a GE program as follows:

(i) For students whose enrollment status is full-time on the first day of the student's enrollment in the program:

Number of students in the enrollment cohort who completed the program within 100% of the length of the program

Number of students in the enrollment cohort

and

Number of students in the enrollment cohort who completed the program within 150% of the length of the program

Number of students in the enrollment cohort

(ii) For students whose enrollment status is less than full-time on the first day of the student's enrollment in the program:

Number of students in the enrollment cohort who completed the program within 200% of the length of the program

Number of students in the enrollment cohort

and

Number of students in the enrollment cohort who completed the program within 300% of the length of the program

Number of students in the enrollment cohort

The enrollment cohort is the number of students who began attending the program at any time during a particular award year.

(2) Withdrawal rate. The Secretary calculates the withdrawal rate of a GE program as follows:

Number of students in the enrollment cohort who withdrew from the program within the length of the program

Number of students in the enrollment cohort

The enrollment cohort is the number of students who began attending the program at any time during a particular award year.

(3) Loan repayment rate. For the most recently completed award year, the Secretary calculates a loan repayment rate for borrowers not excluded under paragraph (b)(3)(vi) who attended a GE program as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Number of borrowers paid in full plus number in active repayment}}{\text{Number of borrowers entering repayment}}$$

(i) Number entering repayment. The total number of borrowers who entered repayment during the two-year period on FFEL or Direct Loans received for attendance in the GE program.

(ii) Number paid in full. Of the number of borrowers entering repayment, the number who have fully repaid FFEL or Direct Loans received for attendance in the GE program.

(iii) Number in active repayment. Of the number of borrowers entering repayment, the number who, during the most recently completed award year made loan payments sufficient to reduce by at least one dollar the outstanding principal balance of each of the borrower's FFEL or Direct Loans, including consolidation loans that include a FFEL or Direct Loan received for attendance in the GE program, by comparing the outstanding

principal balance at the beginning and end of the award year.

The outstanding principal balance of a loan includes any unpaid accrued interest that has been capitalized.

(iv) Loan defaults. A borrower who defaulted on a FFEL or Direct Loan is not included in the numerator of the loan repayment rate formula.

(v) Repayment rates for borrowers who completed or withdrew. The Secretary may modify the formula in this paragraph to calculate repayment rates for only those borrowers who completed the program or for only those borrowers who withdrew from the program.

(vi) Exclusions. For the award year the Secretary calculates the loan repayment rate for a GE program, the Secretary excludes a borrower from the repayment rate calculation if the Secretary determines that--

(A) One or more of the borrower's title IV loans were in a military-related deferment status for at least 60 consecutive days during the most recently completed award year;

(B) One or more of the borrower's title IV loans are either under consideration by the Secretary, or have been approved, for a discharge on the basis of the borrower's total and permanent disability, under 34 CFR 682.402 and 685.212;

(C) The borrower was enrolled on at least a half-time basis for at least 60 consecutive days in an eligible institution during the most recently completed award year; or

(D) The borrower died.

(4) Median earnings. The Secretary calculates the median earnings of a GE program as described in paragraphs (b)(5)-(b)(9).

(5) Median earnings for students completing the GE program. The Secretary calculates the median earnings for the students who completed the GE program during the two-year period in accordance with §668.405.

(6) Median earnings for students who withdrew from the GE program. (i) The Secretary calculates the median earnings for the students who withdrew from the GE program during the two-year period by--

(A) Creating a list of the students who were enrolled in the program but withdrew during the two-year period and providing it to the institution, as provided in paragraph (b)(6)(ii);

(B) Allowing the institution to correct the information about the students on the list, as provided in paragraph (b)(6)(iii);

(C) Obtaining from SSA the median annual earnings of the students on the list, as provided in paragraph (b)(6)(iv); and

(D) Notifying the institution of the median annual earnings for the students on the list.

(ii) Creating the list of students. (A) The Secretary selects the students to be included on the list by--

(1) Identifying the students who were enrolled in the program but withdrew during the two-year period from the data provided by the institution under §668.410; and

(2) Removing any student who is excluded under paragraph (b)(8).

(B) The Secretary provides the list to the institution.

(iii) Institutional corrections to the list. (A) The Secretary presumes that the list of students and the identity information for those students are correct unless the institution provides evidence to the contrary that is satisfactory to the Secretary, in a format and process determined by the Secretary. The institution bears the burden of proof that the list is incorrect.

(B) No later than 30 days after the date the Secretary provides the list to the institution, the institution may--

(1) Provide evidence showing that a student should be included on or removed from the list pursuant to paragraph (b)(8); or

(2) Correct or update a student's identity information and the student's program attendance information provided for a student on the list.

(C) After the 30-day period expires, the institution may no longer seek to correct the list of students or revise the identity or program information of those students.

(D) The Secretary considers the evidence provided by the institution and either accepts the correction or notifies the institution of the reasons for not accepting the correction. If the Secretary accepts the correction, the Secretary uses the corrected information to create the final list.

(iv) Obtaining earnings data. The Secretary submits the final list to SSA. For purposes of this section SSA returns to the Secretary--

(1) The median earnings of the students on the list whom SSA has matched to SSA earnings data, in aggregate and not in individual form; and

(2) The number, but not the identities, of students on the list that SSA could not match.

(7) Median earnings for students who completed and withdrew from the GE program. (i) The Secretary calculates the median earnings for both the students who completed the GE program during the two-year period and students who withdrew from the GE program during the two-year period by--

(A) Creating a list of both the students who completed the GE program during the two-year period and students who withdrew from the GE program during the two-year period and providing it to the institution, as provided in paragraph (b)(7)(ii);

(B) Allowing the institution to correct the information about the students on the list, as provided in paragraph (b)(7)(iii);

(C) Obtaining from SSA the mean and median annual earnings of the students on the list, as provided in paragraph (b)(7)(iv); and

(D) Notifying the institution of the mean and median annual earnings for the students on the list.

(ii) Creating the list of students. (A) The Secretary selects the students to be included on the list by--

(1) Identifying the students who were enrolled in the program and completed or withdrew during the two-year period from the data provided by the institution under §668.410; and

(2) Removing any student who is excluded under paragraph (b)(8).

(B) The Secretary provides the list to the institution.

(iii) Institutional corrections to the list. (A) The Secretary presumes that the list of students and the identity information for those students are correct unless the institution provides evidence to the contrary that is

satisfactory to the Secretary. The institution bears the burden of proof that the list is incorrect.

(B) No later than 45 days after the date the Secretary provides the list to the institution, the institution may--

(1) Provide evidence showing that a student should be included on or removed from the list pursuant to paragraph (b)(8); or

(2) Correct or update a student's identity information and the student's program attendance information provided for a student on the list.

(C) After the 45-day period expires, the institution may no longer seek to correct the list of students or revise the identity or program information of those students.

(D) The Secretary considers the evidence provided by the institution and either accepts the correction or notifies the institution of the reasons for not accepting the correction. If the Secretary accepts the correction, the Secretary uses the corrected information to create the final list.

(iv) Obtaining earnings data. The Secretary submits the final list to SSA. For purposes of this section SSA returns to the Secretary--

(1) The mean and median earnings of the students on the list whom SSA has matched to SSA earnings data, in aggregate and not in individual form; and

(2) The number, but not the identities, of students on the list that SSA could not match.

(8) Exclusions from median earnings calculations. The Secretary excludes a student from the calculation of the median earnings of a GE program if the Secretary determines that--

(i) One or more of the student's title IV loans were in a military-related deferment status for at least 60 consecutive days during the calendar year for which the Secretary obtains earnings information under this section;

(ii) One or more of the student's title IV loans are under consideration by the Secretary, or have been approved, for a discharge on the basis of the student's total and permanent disability, under 34 CFR 674.61, 682.402 and 685.212;

(iii) The student was enrolled on at least a half-time basis for at least 60 consecutive days in an eligible institution during the calendar year for which the Secretary obtains earnings information under this section; or

(iv) The student died.

(9) Median earnings not calculated. The Secretary does not calculate the mean or median earnings for a GE program if SSA does not provide the mean and median earnings for the program.

(c) Notification to institution. The Secretary notifies the institution of the--

(1) Draft completion, withdrawal, and repayment rates calculated under paragraph (b)(1)-(b)(3) and the information the Secretary used to calculate those rates.

(2) Median earnings of the students who completed the program, as described in paragraph (b)(5), the students who withdrew from the program, as described in paragraph (b)(6), or both the students who completed the GE program during the two-year period and students who withdrew from the GE program during the two-year period, as described in paragraph (b)(7).

(d) Challenges to rates and earnings. (1) Completion, withdrawal, and repayment rates.

(i) No later than 45 days after the Secretary notifies an institution of the draft completion, withdrawal, and repayment rates, the institution may challenge the accuracy of the information that the Secretary used to calculate the draft rates by submitting, in a form prescribed by the Secretary, evidence satisfactory to the Secretary demonstrating that the information was incorrect.

(ii) The Secretary considers any evidence provided by the institution challenging the accuracy of the information the Secretary used to calculate the rates and notifies the institution whether the challenge is accepted or the reasons the challenge is not accepted. If the Secretary accepts the

challenge, the Secretary uses the corrected data to calculate the rates.

(iii) An institution may challenge the Secretary's calculation of the completion, withdrawal, and repayment rates only once for an award year. An institution that does not timely challenge the rates waives any objection to the rates as stated in the notice.

(2) Median earnings. The Secretary does not consider any challenges to the median earnings calculated under this section.

(e) Final rates and earnings. (1) Completion, withdrawal, and repayment rates.

(i) After expiration of the 45-day period, and subject to resolution of any challenge under paragraph (d)(1), a GE program's draft completion, withdrawal, and repayments rates constitute the final rates for that program.

(ii) The Secretary informs the institution of the final completion, withdrawal, and repayment rates for each of its GE programs by issuing a notice of determination.

(iii) After the Secretary provides the notice of determination, the Secretary may publish the final completion, withdrawal, and repayment rates.

(2) Median earnings. The median earnings of the GE program calculated by the Secretary under this section constitute the final median earnings for that program. After

the Secretary provides the institution with the notice in paragraph (c), the Secretary may publish the final median earnings for the GE program.

(f) Conditions for challenges. An institution must ensure that any material that it submits to make any corrections or challenge provided in this section is complete, timely, accurate, and in a format acceptable to the Secretary as described in this subpart and, with respect to challenges under paragraph (d)(1), consistent with any instructions provided to the institution with the notice of its draft completion, withdrawal, and repayment rates.

§668.413 Application requirement for new GE programs.

(a) An institution must apply to the Secretary to establish the title IV eligibility of a new GE program if--

(1) The program has the same CIP code as, or is substantially similar to, a program that--

(i) Became ineligible under this subpart;

(ii) Was a failing or zone program under this subpart that the institution voluntarily discontinued; or

(iii) Is replacing a currently failing or zone program; or

(2) The institution currently has, or had within the previous three years, a failing program under its GE measures within the same CIP family.

(b) For a new program requiring the approval of the Secretary under paragraph (a), an institution must submit a materially complete application to the Secretary in a format prescribed by the Secretary and certified as accurate by the institution's most senior executive officer. The application must include the following:

(1) The CIP code, credential level, the number of clock or credit hours, and length of program of the program.

(2) The primary occupations, by name and SOC code, that the institution represents the program will prepare students to enter.

(3) The total cost of tuition and fees that a student would incur for completing the program.

(4) The total cost of books and supplies that a student would incur for completing the program.

(5) The date of the expected first day of instruction of the program as a title IV eligible program.

(6) As reported by businesses or organizations that employ individuals in the occupations for which the program prepares students, for students who complete the program, the projected average annual--

(i) Entry-level earnings; and

(ii) Earnings three years after entering the profession.

(7) Letters from at least three businesses or organizations that employ individuals in the occupations for which the program prepares students signed by an executive officer of the business or organization. Each letter must include a statement that, in the opinion of the employer, the program's proposed curriculum would provide a student who completes the program with the skills, knowledge, and abilities needed for employment in those occupations.

(8) Documentation that the program has been approved by the institution's accrediting agency or is otherwise included in the institution's accreditation by its accrediting agency, or comparable documentation if the institution is a public

postsecondary vocational institution approved by a recognized State agency for the approval of public postsecondary vocational education in lieu of accreditation.

(9) For each occupation that the program will prepare students to enter, whether--

(i) The program meets any relevant specialized or programmatic accreditation requirements.

(ii) Completion of the program would satisfy--

(A) State licensure or certification requirements or allow the student to sit for a State licensing exam, if any, in the State in which the program is offered and in any other State included in the institution's MSA and in which the program is offered; and

(B) Any conditions or prerequisites for obtaining a certification required by employers in the State in which the program is offered and in any other State included in the MSA in which the program is offered.

(10) For any program that includes experiential placement, such as externships or internships, whether the institution has arranged sufficient placements that meet the requirements, if any, of the program's accreditation or licensure requirements or other employment requirements of the State or States in which the program is offered and in any other State included in the MSA in which the program is offered.

(c) The Secretary approves the GE program if--

(1) The institution provides all the information required by paragraph (b);

(2) There are no material or unresolved issues relating to the institution's administration of or participation in the title IV, HEA programs;

(3) The institution has complied with the requirements in this subpart for all of its GE programs; and

(4) The program meets all other title IV eligibility requirements.

(d) The Secretary notifies the institution if its application for the GE program is approved or denied. If the application is denied, the Secretary informs the institution of the reasons for the denial, and the institution may petition the Secretary to reconsider that denial.

(e) An institution may begin disbursing title IV, HEA program funds to students enrolled in a new GE program subject to this section on the date the Secretary approves the program under paragraph (d).

§668.414 Certifications for GE programs.

(a) Program participation agreement certification. An institution must provide in its Program Participation Agreement under 34 CFR 668.14 a certification that for each of its existing GE programs--

(1) The program has been approved by a recognized accrediting agency, received programmatic accreditation if applicable or is otherwise included in the institution's accreditation by its recognized accrediting agency, or, if the institution is a public postsecondary vocational institution, the program has been approved by a recognized State agency for the approval of public postsecondary vocational education in lieu of accreditation; and

(2) Completion of the program would satisfy State licensure or certification requirements in the State or MSA in which the program is offered, or allow the student to sit for any State licensing exam in those areas, for the occupation for which the institution presents the program as preparing its students.

(b) Transitional certification. On or before September 1, 2015, an institution must provide to the Department a certification signed by its most senior executive officer that

all of its GE programs receiving title IV, HEA funds at that time meet the requirements of paragraph (a).

Conforming Changes to Existing Regulations

(new language underlined)

§600.2 Definitions.

The following definitions apply to terms in this part:

* * *

Recognized occupation: An occupation that is--

(a) Identified by a Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) code established by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) or an Occupational Information Network O*Net-SOC code established by the Department of Labor and which are available at <http://online.onecenter.org> or its successor site; or

(b) Determined by the Secretary in consultation with the Secretary of Labor to be a recognized occupation.

§600.10 Date, extent, duration, and consequence of eligibility.

* * *

(c) Educational programs. (1) An eligible institution that seeks to establish the eligibility of an educational program must--

(i) For a gainful employment program under 34 CFR 668, subpart Q, obtain the Secretary's approval as may be required under 34 CFR 668.413; and

(ii) For a direct assessment program under 34 CFR 668.10, a comprehensive transition and postsecondary program under 34 CFR 668.232, or pursuant to a requirement regarding additional programs included in the institution's Program Participation Agreement under 34 CFR 668.14, obtain the Secretary's approval.

(2) An eligible institution does not have to obtain the Secretary's approval to establish the eligibility of any program that is not described in paragraph (c)(1)(i) or (ii).

(3) An institution must repay to the Secretary all HEA program funds received by the institution for an educational program, and all the title IV, HEA program funds received by or on behalf of students who enrolled in that program if the institution--

(i) Fails to obtain the Secretary's approval for an educational program identified in paragraph (c)(1); or

(ii) Incorrectly determines that an educational program that is not subject to approval under paragraph (c)(1) or (2) of this section is an eligible program for title IV, HEA program purposes.

* * *

§600.20 Notice and application procedures for establishing, reestablishing, maintaining, or expanding program eligibility or institutional eligibility and certification.

* * *

(c) The application and certification requirements for programs that are required to prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation are in 34 CFR §§668.413 and 668.414.

* * *

§600.21 Updating application information.

(a) Reporting requirements. Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, an eligible institution must report to the Secretary, in a manner prescribed by the Secretary no later than 10 days after the change occurs, any change in the following:

* * *

(11) For any gainful employment program under 34 CFR part 668, subpart Q, for which the institution--

(i) Discontinues the program's eligibility under 34 CFR 668.409;

(ii) Ceases to provide the program for a reason other than a normal vacation period or natural disaster;

(iii) Loses program eligibility under §600.40; or

(iv) Changes the program's name, and as defined in 34 CFR 668.402, CIP code, or credential level.

* * *

