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**News from NASFAA**

***Expected Family Contribution - en Español***

Washington, D.C. (October 2008) – Hispanic students usually face more barriers than other students when they try to access and successfully complete higher education.

Language is a significant barrier faced by Hispanic students. It can be difficult for native English speakers to get a handle on the financial aid vernacular. For Hispanic students and their parents who speak English as a second language, or have little to no understanding of English, the financial aid vernacular can be intimidating to the point that it becomes an insurmountable obstacle.

Studies indicate that a lack of awareness in Hispanic communities about the financial resources available to help pay for college is one reason that Hispanic students are less likely to pursue higher education. Studies also show the need or preference among Hispanic parents and students for information in Spanish.

NASFAA works with a number of organizations to eliminate some of the barriers Hispanic students face and to encourage the fastest growing portion of the U.S. population to set and achieve higher education goals. Part of this effort is the [English-Spanish Glossary of Student Financial Aid and Postsecondary Education](#).

The glossary, available in PDF format and as a searchable database, includes 2,500 terms and aims to promote greater consistency in the vocabulary used in Spanish-language materials about higher education. The glossary primarily contains terms related to the U.S. Department of Education's federal student aid programs. However, the goal is to expand the glossary to include all terms relating to access to higher education.

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Many state and regional financial aid associations develop financial aid materials in Spanish to help these students access the aid available to them. NASFAA encourages anyone developing financial aid material in Spanish to use the glossary to ensure consistency and to eliminate unnecessary confusion. In addition, you can provide input about the glossary by submitting comments to Maria Luna-Torres at [maria.luna-torres@tgslc.org](mailto:maria.luna-torres@tgslc.org) by March 15 of each year. An updated glossary is released annually.

The English-Spanish glossary and database provide an easy-to-use resource for those who create Spanish-language materials and Web site content about higher education and student financial aid. The glossary is also intended to be used as a common reference by secondary school administrators, postsecondary admissions advisors, financial aid and outreach professionals, and others providing Spanish-speaking families and students with information about going to college.

First developed in 2004, the glossary originally consisted of an alphabetical listing of English terms translated into Spanish. Last year, users gained the option of accessing a Web site where they can type in an English term to instantly obtain the Spanish translation.

This glossary is a collaborative effort of NASFAA, TG, National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC), the National College Access Network (NCAN), the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP), the National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs (NCHELP), and the U.S. Department of Education.

The glossary is free and available at [www.tgslc.org/pdf/Spanish\\_glossary.pdf](http://www.tgslc.org/pdf/Spanish_glossary.pdf) in an easily searchable PDF. The link to the searchable database is [www.tgslc.org/spanish/glossary/](http://www.tgslc.org/spanish/glossary/).

By Haley Chitty, Assistant Director for Communications, National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA). Comments may be addressed to the author at [ChittyJ@NASFAA.org](mailto:ChittyJ@NASFAA.org).

*The National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) is a nonprofit membership organization that represents more than 14,000 financial aid professionals at nearly 3,000 colleges, universities, and career schools across the country. Each year, financial aid professionals help more than 16 million students receive funding for postsecondary education. Based in Washington, D.C., NASFAA is the only national association with a primary focus on student aid legislation, regulatory analysis, and training for financial aid administrators. In addition to its member Web site at [www.NASFAA.org](http://www.NASFAA.org), the Association offers a Web site with financial aid information for parents and students at [www.StudentAid.org](http://www.StudentAid.org).*