#### statement of ethical principles

The primary goal of the Financial Aid Professional is to help students achieve their educational potential by providing appropriate financial resources. To this end, this Statement provides the Financial Aid Professional with a set of principles that serves as a common foundation for Accepted standards of conduct.

The Financial Aid Professional shall:

- 1. Be committed to removing financial barriers for those who wish to pursue postsecondary learning.
- 2. Make every effort to assist students with financial need.
- Be aware of the issues affecting students and advocate their interests at the institutional, state, and federal levels.
- 4. Support efforts to encourage students, as early as the elementary grades, to aspire to and plan for education beyond high school.
- 5. Educate students and families through quality consumer information.
- Respect the dignity and protect the privacy of students, and assure the confidentiality of student records and personal circumstances.
- 7. Assure equity by applying all need analysis formulas consistently across the institution's full population of student financial aid applicants.
- 8. Provide services that do not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, disability, age, or economic status.
- 9. Recognize the need for professional development and continuing education opportunities.
- 10. Promote the free expression of ideas and opinions, and foster respect for diverse viewpoints within the profession.
- 11. Commit to the highest level of ethical behavior and refrain from conflict of interest or the perception thereof.
- 12. Maintain the highest level of professionalism, reflecting a commitment to the goals of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

Task Force on Standards of Excellence Adopted by the Board of Directors, April 1999.







# We are NASFAA.

18,000 Financial Aid Professionals. 16,000,000 Students. One Voice.

### who we are

NASFAA represents more than 18,000 professionals at nearly 2,800 institutions of higher education, serving over 16 million students. No other national association serves the needs of the financial aid community better or more effectively than NASFAA. If you have any questions about the information in this report, please contact Membership Services at (202) 785-0453, Ext.1 or Membership@NASFAA.org.

#### **Our Mission**

The National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) promotes the professional preparation, effectiveness, support, and diversity of persons and organizations involved in the administration of student financial aid, and facilitates communication throughout its community. NASFAA encourages and promotes programs that remove financial barriers to ensure student access to postsecondary education.

#### **Our Core Principals**

- Promote fairness and equity for students across all sectors of postsecondary education, with a particular emphasis on the underrepresented and underserved students:
- ✓ Promote the primacy of need-based aid;
- Promote policies that address the needs of disadvantaged students;
- ✓ Promote accountability;
- ✓ Encourage simplicity;
- ✔ Provide schools with the flexibility to respond to the specific needs of their students;
- Recommend policies that accommodate the diversity of academic delivery models;
- ✔ Promote the use of technology wherever possible;
- ✓ Eliminate statutory requirements that use financial aid to enforce unrelated social policies; and
- ✓ Support recommendations with research and data analysis wherever possible.

## nasfaa's products and services

#### www.NASFAA.org

Easy to navigate, rich in content, and updated daily, the NASFAA Web site is your window on the world of financial aid. Some features of the Web site are for Members only and require a username and password to access.

#### **Today's News**

An award-winning, daily e-mail that provides you with detailed information on all financial aid current events, including legislation, regulation, research, training, conferences, news of the Association, media articles, and job openings.

#### **Membership Center**

Available on the NASFAA Web site, the Membership Center lets you access and update your own Member record and conduct a member search, making it an online NASFAA Membership Directory that is updated daily.

#### **Legislative and Regulatory Advocacy**

From the day NASFAA was founded, the Association has represented the interests of students and financial aid administrators to the Congress and regulatory agencies. The combined voice of nearly 2,800 NASFAA institutional members (more than 18,000 individuals) is persuasive!

#### **AskRegs Technical Assistance**

NASFAA staff with expertise in Title IV program regulations are at your service daily to answer questions on regulatory and compliance issues. Our goal is to respond to your question within 24 hours. Staff are available by phone, e-mail, and online.

#### Standards of Excellence (SOE) Review Program

Standards of Excellence is a voluntary peer review program that provides an impartial and confidential assessment of a financial aid program's strengths and makes recommendations for improvement. Each review is customized to fit the needs of the institution.

#### **Encyclopedia of Student Financial Aid**

The ultimate financial aid resource on student aid law and regulation, the Encyclopedia is available on the Web and is completely searchable. With more than 1,000 original government reference documents, as well as interpretive text written by NASFAA staff, the Encyclopedia is truly one of a kind.

#### **NASFAA Conference**

Imagine 2,000 colleagues under one roof, sharing professional advice, receiving expert guidance from policymakers, and trading war stories. Such imagination becomes reality each July at the NASFAA Conference.

#### **Training Opportunities**

The Association has offered training opportunities to its Members for nearly three decades. Current offerings include CORE, the Leadership Conference, and Webinars. Each presents a unique way to stay current and continue to grow professionally.

#### Research

NASFAA offers many valuable research tools and opportunities, including research news and facts, Salary and Staffing Tools and Models, Sponsored Research Grants, Annotated Bibliography of Student Financial Aid, and more. The Research Center, located on the NASFAA Web site, features many research-related resources.

#### **Self-Evaluation Guide**

The Self-Evaluation Guide is an in-house assessment tool that helps you determine the effectiveness of your administration of the Title IV programs. Available online.

#### **Policies & Procedures Tools**

Policies & Procedures Tools is a well-stocked toolbox to help you create and maintain a policies and procedures manual that meets staff needs for the proper administration of student aid in an electronic age. Available online.

#### **Additional Web Site Resources**

The NASFAA Web site includes many resources that are updated as needed. Some of the most popular include:

- Using Federal Tax Returns in Need Analysis
- Compilation of Federal Regulations
- Guide to Federal Tax Benefits for Tuition and Fees
- Award Letter Evaluation Tool
- Title IV Eligibility Checklist

#### **Career Center**

You can advertise for needed staff or seek new opportunities for yourself. Sign up for Job Alerts, and and job listings will be sent to you via e-mail as they are posted on the NASFAA Web site.

#### **Cash for College**

Cash for College provides all the basic facts on the student aid programs and application procedures in a compact package. It is available online or Members may purchase copies in bulk at a discount for distribution to prospective students and their parents.

#### **Publications**

Members receive two publications via mail: Student Aid Transcript magazine and the Journal of Student Financial Aid. Both publications are available online too! The online NASFAA Catalog describes in detai all the publications, tools, and services the Association offers to you.

#### **Guidance for Counselors**

NASFAA provides a number of tools on its Parents & Students Web site www.StudentAid.org to help high school counselors advise their students. High School Counselor Materials and the PowerPoint presentation Planning and Conducting a Financial Aid Night are provided each fall to use in conjunction with high school counselor training. The tools may be of assistance if you work closely with high schools in your area.

#### Volunteers

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the Association. For every NASFAA staff member, there are about 10 campus aid administrators who volunteer their time and expertise. Most visible are the roughly 170 volunteers who serve each year on committees and the Board of Directors, give testimony, serve as trainers, and more. Want to make a difference? Get involved!

#### **Retiree Group**

The NASFAA Retiree Group is a service for retired financial aid administrators who want to maintain contact with their former colleagues and receive news of the profession without maintaining membership in the Association.

## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATORS







Laurie Wolf, 2010-11 NASFAA Chair.

































