

GEN-89-28

Cost of Attendance - Licensing Courses and Fees

United States Department of Education
Washington, D.C. 20202
May 1989

COSTS OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING EXAMINATION REVIEW COURSES AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING EXAMINATION FEES MAY NOT BE INCLUDED IN COST OF ATTENDANCE

Dear Colleague:

We have received recent inquiries concerning the inclusion of the cost of a professional licensing examination (e.g., bar examination or medical licensing examination) review course or a professional licensing examination fee as an allowable cost of attendance under section 472 of Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (the Act). We have also been asked whether a financial aid administrator may properly use his or her professional judgment under §479A of the Act to include these costs in the student's cost of attendance in determining the amount of the student's Title IV assistance.

The Department of Education's long-standing view on such costs is that, because these costs are not costs related to completing the student's course of study at the school, and are clearly costs related only to post-enrollment activity, it is not permissible to include these costs in the student's cost of attendance, nor would it be a reasonable use of a financial aid administrator's professional judgment to adjust the student's cost of attendance to include these amounts. See §§472 and 484(a)(4) of the Act.

If you have questions relating to this letter, please contact the Regional Office of the Department of Education serving your State.

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