HISTORY OF CHANGES TO FINANCIAL AID VERIFICATION

2009-2010 AY
IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) first available for limited use

2012-2013 AY
IRS DRT added as acceptable verification documentation
Department of Education (ED) announces all applicants who filed taxes but opted out of DRT will be subject to being selected for verification
30% institutional verification cap is removed
ED makes exception to allow signed copy of tax return for limited time due to inability for some applicants to obtain transcripts
Guidance issued regarding individuals who are unable to use DRT such as victims of ID theft, and amended return filers

2013-2014 AY
High school completion status and identity/statement of education purpose requirements added
Introduction of verification groups broken into 5 categories; targeted selection, discretionary selection, and a combination
Technical error with tax filing software comes to light; no disbursements made for 4 to 6 weeks for borrowers selected for verification but not completed

2014-2015 AY
Verification of non-filing status requirement added if school questions the submitted status of the student or parent
V2 (SNAP) verification group eliminated; however SNAP/food stamps must be verified for apps placed in groups V1 (standard), V4, V5, V6.
V6 (household resources) verification group added
Schools required to report results of V4 (high school completion/identify statement) & V5 (aggregate) verification groups
2015-2016 AY
Signed paper copy of 2014 tax return may be accepted by school if the tax filer had tried and failed to obtain a transcript from the IRS

2016-2017 AY
Verification of non-filing required for all schools
Verification of non-filing statement requirement removed because of difficulty getting the document from the IRS starting April 2017
Verification group V3 eliminated

2017-2018 AY
Quality Assurance Program ends with start of 17/18 AY
Verification of non-filing statement required again
ED reprocesses certain ISIRs due to incorrectly assigned 399 codes which resulted in 7,500 new ISIRs selected for VE
ED abandons plans for automatic confirmation of non-filing status
Verification group V6 eliminated
Start of Prior Prior Year; documents used for 2016-17 VE allowed to be used for 2017-18 VE
ED announces future implementation of automatic confirmation of non-filing status.
Institutions report drastically higher percentages of applicants selected for verification

2018-2019 AY
ED removes requirement for dependent students to obtain non-filing statement; still required for parents of dependent students and independent students
Institutional resolution of 400/401 codes introduced in response to IRS DRT masking of information transferred into FAFSA
ED acknowledges error in verification selection algorithm and makes adjustments with the anticipated result of lower selection rates

2019-2020 AY
ED announces no change to verification requirements