

**LOUISIANA STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Student Financial Aid Bulletin

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TOPICS:	Response to questions related to basis for clarification of federal need and cost of attendance for Go Grant packaging

The following clarification is being issued in response to questions regarding the origin of the November 14, 2007 Student Financial Aid Bulletin entitled: **Clarification of federal need and cost of attendance for Go Grant packaging**

- Rules and QA's for GO Grant were designed based upon state definitions with the understanding that adherence to existing federal regulations and packaging rules would take precedence during packaging.
- LOSFA responded to input from the financial aid community relative to the need for issuance of clarification regarding the requirement for evaluation of both cost of attendance *and* federal financial need.

Basis for Bulletin Issuance:

- The November 14 bulletin issued by LOSFA provided a reminder of general packaging rules found in Chapter 7 of the 2007-2008 Federal Student Aid Handbook and estimated financial assistance guidelines outlined in 34CFR673.5:
 - “The general rule in packaging is that the student’s total financial aid and other Estimated Financial Assistance (EFA) must not exceed the student’s financial need (Need=Cost minus the EFC). If you discover that the student has other EFA that cause the aid package to exceed the student’s need, you must attempt to adjust the aid package to eliminate the overaward.”
 - Estimated financial assistance... includes but is not limited to...State grants...

Action Required:

- Institutions should reduce GO Grant awards for the spring semester in instances where Fall GO Grant awards caused financial aid receipt in excess of federal financial need. (Overawards caused by receipt of aid in excess of cost of attendance should have already been addressed during fall billing.)
- Care should be taken during packaging of spring awards to avoid overawards.
- The overaward flag should be checked when requesting reduced GO Grant payment due to aid in excess of cost of attendance or federal financial need.

Should you have further questions please contact Bonnie Lavergne in the LOSFA Special Programs Section at 225-922-0412.