

ILASFAA Virtual Fall Workshop 12/06/23 – Q&As

MAP

- **Any chance the MAP suspend date will be adjusted?**
 - ISAC will not know if the MAP suspend date will be adjusted until after the first claim deadline date has passed in order to be able to review claims paid and evaluate the availability of any remaining funds. 2023-24 award year deadline date was December 8, 2023.
- **For the MAP Notification language-does the entire required language have to be on award offers or is a link to the required language sufficient?**
 - It depends, if your institution offers electronic award letters and a link is provided to direct the student to the MAP language, then yes, a link is sufficient. But if your institution offers paper copies of award letters then the MAP language should be provided on the paper award letter.

Nursing Education Scholarship

- **What does "pay a portion of tuition and fee charges" mean? Are there any limitations to what it can pay?**
 - "Pay a portion of tuition and fee charges" means the total amount of NES assistance awarded to an eligible applicant in a given academic year, when added to the other financial aid available to the recipient for that year and does not exceed the cost of attendance.
 - So, in other words, it is the amount of tuition and fee charges remaining on a student's account after all other funding has been applied. "Other funding" is any other financial aid designated specifically for tuition and fees, and the remaining balance is the amount of your NES payment request.
 - NES pays for tuition and fees, not tuition and mandatory fees, as well as a living allowance for full-time students (previously referred to as a stipend). The scholarship pays for coursework within the nursing curriculum but does not pay for pre-requisite coursework. Keep in mind that the NES definition of "fees" is way broader than ISAC's definition of mandatory fees... NES fees pay mandatory charges that all students enrolled in a nursing program must pay, including required course or lab fees.
- **Is the living allowance of \$5,200 per semester?**
 - The living allowance is an annual amount awarded for full-time students only – a living allowance (previously referred to as a stipend), is combined into a Maximum Annual Award Amount (scholarship) which includes the Tuition and Fees and Living Allowance into one scholarship for the academic year.

- **What will ISAC's Program Review (auditors) require in order to confirm the course(s) are in the nursing curriculum?**
 - Program review will typically look at the student's transcript, as well as the school's catalogue on file for their nursing curriculum. For more information regarding ISAC's Compliance Program Review – Required Documentation: <https://www.isac.org/faas/processes/external-compliance-program-review/>

- **Is ISAC going to announce another round of awarding? Is it possible more students on our roster will be awarded? If so, do we get notification or just have to regularly check GAP Access?**
 - ISAC is currently not taking any more applications due to the deadline date to submit an application was April 30. However, due to the high volume of applicants, it is possible that ISAC will announce another round of awarding if funds remain available.
 - It is important for schools to complete and submit payment requests as soon as the payment request process is available so that ISAC can monitor the fund balance and, if able to do so, make awards to eligible unfunded students as early as possible in the academic year.
 - Keep in mind, students have to be certified as eligible to be considered for an award, and if a student becomes eligible after the awarding process begins, you will need to contact ISAC School Services to make any changes to a student's account.
 - If additional rounds of awarding occur, ISAC will send out notifications via the FAA Message Board, the NES Program News page, and/or an e-Message.

- **Is NES first payer or does other programs get paid first, such as MAP?**
 - Do what is in the best interest of the student. What this means is that by paying the MAP grant first would be in the best interest of the student because the MAP grant does not need to be repaid back if the recipient terminates studies or fails to become employed, like the NES does.
 - Remember, NES recipients must have signed an agreement promising continuous attendance in school and begin employment requirements in Illinois within six months of graduating and remain employed for a period equivalent to the educational time supported by the scholarship, otherwise the funds awarded must be paid back (loan plus interest).
 - NES may cover some fees that MAP may not, and NES covers tuition and fees whereas MAP covers tuition and mandatory fees, so maybe what MAP doesn't cover NES will cover.

ECACE

- **If a student is on an approved Financial Aid appeal for GPA/Completion rate, can they receive the ECACE scholarship or is it an all or none for achieving SAP?**
 - A student must maintain satisfactory academic progress as established by the college. Student and institutions are encouraged to work together to address academic needs so that student remains eligible.

- **If an ECACE student transfers from a community college to a 4-year institution, will we see the previously disbursed ECACE funds in GAP? Or will the max award have been adjusted already?**
 - Schools will only see in GAP what was paid out to their own institution, but schools will see what remaining funds are available for that transfer student when requesting a payment claim.

- **Are ECACE payments to schools taking longer for the 2023-24 award year? We received our first payment last year in approximately 6-7 weeks but have passed the 8-week mark for later payment requests.**
 - Payments are made on a monthly basis, the disbursement of funds is processed by the State Comptroller's Office. Allow four to six weeks for payment processing (i.e., from the date a claim is submitted until funds are received at the college). Refer to the State Comptroller's Website page for information on how to track payment: <https://www.isac.org/faas/processes/state-comptrollers-website.html>.
 - If for some reason you believe there is an unusual delay, you may contact ISAC School Services to inquire about your delayed payment claim(s) isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov

Alternative Application

- **How do schools receive or get notified if a student submitted an Alternative Application for an award year?**
 - Schools will have to log into GAP Access to see if a student has completed an Alternative Application. If the student has successfully submitted an Alternative Application to ISAC and included your school on the list of school choices, you will be able to access and view the student's record.
 - Ex: One of the easiest ways to search for a student if you don't know the ISAC ID number is to use the Filter function in the MAP system and filter on the student's first and last name. After entering the filter criteria, return to the Student List view and check to see if the student is listed. See the MAP Eligibility User Guide for more information on GAP Access functionality
 - If the student is on the filtered list, you will find eligibility information on the Student List and on the Student Detail screen, and the ISAC ID number can be found in the SSN field.
 - Another way to identify Alternative Application students in GAP Access... Schools can run the MAP Eligibility Report under the "Reports" tab in the MAP System in GAP Access. Select the "Create New Report" button and select the "MAP Eligibility Report". Under the "Applicant" section request the report for "Alternative Applications." Once the report has been requested it will be available in the report list and you will have the option to open it in Word or Excel format.
 - Another option is to sort on the Social Security Number (SSN) Match Flag field in the MAP system in GAP Access. Because a database match with the Social Security Administration is not done for students who completed the Alternative Application, there will not be a value in the SSN Match Flag field; the field will be blank. FAFSA applicants will have a value in the SSN Match Flag field.
 - MAP Eligibility User Guide: <https://www.isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/pdf/2324-FAA-AltApp-OpsGuide-Oct22.pdf>
 - GAP Access: <https://www.isac.org/gap-access/>
 - Operational Guide for Alternative Application Processing: <https://www.isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/pdf/2324-FAA-AltApp-OpsGuide-Oct22.pdf>

2024-25 FAFSA

- When inviting a contributor, the form asks for a SSN, if the parent has one. But an SSN is not required. What happens when a student does not provide the SSN on the form, when the parent does have an SSN?
 - Once the parent (contributor) opens their invite that was emailed to them by the student, they will either log in to the FAFSA with their FSA ID or Create an FSA ID. If they a FSA ID, they will be able to uncheck the box 'does not have a social security number' so that field will open up and can be edited instead of being grayed out.
 - Keep in mind, after inactivity for 45 days, the incomplete FAFSA application will be deleted, and student will have to start a new application.