Anticipated Outcomes

exploring purpose in a pandemic

desired outcomes

financial aid cycle & communications

advocacy & temporary waiver of 2021-2022 standard verification

types of documentation associated with FAFSA verification

COVID Cloud & Professional Judgement

strategies to advocate for families with changes in financial situation

students in need of dependency appeals
“Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards.”

- SOREN KIERK
True or False?

Industry data shows that Pell Grant recipients are three times more likely to be selected for verification than non-recipients.
exploring purpose in a pandemic

Verification is the process your school uses to confirm that the data reported on your FAFSA form is accurate. If you're selected for verification, your school will request additional documentation that supports the information you reported. Don't assume you're being accused of doing anything wrong.

“Right aid, Right student”

Pandemic created major pivot for financial aid offices

Not all financial aid offices are 100% in the office
Departmental Verification Selection

Desired Outcomes

Traditionally, the Department used a Classification and Regression Trees model to select up to 30% of all FAFSA applicants for verification by considering which characteristics were most associated with risk of error or fraud.

In October 2018, the Department started using a Machine Learning Model (MLM) to determine an efficient verification rate that reduced the burden on applicants, their families, and institutions while maintaining the value of improper payments of Title IV Federal student aid. The Department verified 22% of FAFSA filers, an 8% decrease from the previous year.

The Department conducted a cost-benefit analysis in 2020, and the results demonstrated that if the Department verified above 18% of FAFSA filers, the costs of doing so would exceed the benefits. In October 2020, the verification rate was further reduced to 18%, a reduction of 4% from the previous rate. The MLM will be retrained yearly and serve as a tool to continue reducing the burden of verification while responsibly controlling improper payments of Title IV Federal student aid.

The Verification Tracking Group provides which FAFSA data elements institutions are required to verify to determine eligibility for Title IV Federal student aid.
## financial aid cycle & communications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OCTOBER</th>
<th>NOVEMBER</th>
<th>DECEMBER</th>
<th>MARCH</th>
<th>MAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● FAFSA/Alternative Application Completion Workshops</td>
<td>● FAFSA Dataload</td>
<td>● Parent targeted verification communications</td>
<td>● Revised Award offers</td>
<td>● Intent to Enroll</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Virtual &amp; In Person Open Houses</td>
<td>● Verification Document Request letters</td>
<td>● Student targeted verification campaign</td>
<td>● Understanding Award Offer workshops</td>
<td>● Milestone Target for verification documents</td>
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<td></td>
<td>● Estimated Award Offers</td>
<td></td>
<td>● Targeted dependency override communications</td>
<td>● Special Conditions Requests</td>
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<td></td>
<td>● Verification Workshops</td>
<td></td>
<td>● Merit Scholar Interviews</td>
<td>● Text messaging</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>● Student portal referencing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“Optimism means better than reality; pessimism means worse than reality.”

- MARGARET ATWOOD
True or False?

Due to a temporary waiver, there were no students selected for verification during 2021-2022
NASFAA advocating on behalf of financial aid administrators for an extension of the temporary waiver

The waiver of verification of most Free Application for Federal Student Aid/Institutional Student Information Record (FAFSA/ISIR) information will be repealed for the 2022-23 award year, according to the Federal Register notice announcing 2022-23 verification items and acceptable documentation.

The 2021-22 waiver will continue to be in effect for the remainder of the 2021-22 application year. Separate from the waiver, COVID-related verification flexibilities on identity, statement of educational purpose, and high school completion status remain in effect.

Advocacy also continues for FAFSA simplification or one-time FAFSA

Advocacy gaining momentum on both sides of Congress for #doublepell
High School Completion Status

In the September 1, 2021, the Department removed high school completion status as a verification item under the V4 and V5 tracking groups starting with the 2022-2023 FAFSA processing year. As a result, institutions will no longer be required to obtain high school completion documentation to complete V4 or V5 verification.
types of documentation associated with FAFSA verification

Verification Worksheet

IRS Data Retrieval OR
  ◦ Tax transcripts, signed 1040s and w-2 forms

1099 form(s)

Proof of non-tax filing (parents and independent students)

Asset Verification

Dependency Clarification

Proof of homelessness or at risk of (one time)
“Truth matters, but it requires messaging and patience.”

HISTORIAN JOHN M. BARRY
True or False?

There are 3 forms of Professional Judgement
**strategies to advocate for families with changes in financial situation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISLOCATED WORKER STATUS</th>
<th>MEDICAL AND DENTAL EXPENSES</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Typically, verification is completed to ensure what is on the FAFSA currently is correct</td>
<td>Typically proof of payment (receipts) required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated income for either 2021 or 2022 to replace 2019 income provided on FAFSA</td>
<td>Expenses cannot be itemized on 2019 income tax returns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typically proof of date change required to aide in projecting income</td>
<td>Typically contained to 10-15% of adjusted gross income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>◦ Unemployment benefit statement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>◦ Letter from employer</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
students in need of dependency appeals

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Typically, there is no contact with either parent

Circumstances do not allow for healthy contact between student and parent

Typically facilitated by committee

OVERRISE NOT REQUIRED

Homeless or at risk of homeless
(no parent contact)

Child or legal dependents supported greater than 50%

Orphan/Ward of the court or legal guardianship

Parents reside in another country or state
“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

REV) DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
AVAILABLE FOR QUESTIONS

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