

STATE OF INDIANA

STATE STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF INDIANA



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TO: Indiana Higher Education Financial Aid Offices

FROM: Kathi C. Graves, Grants Division Director

KG

RE: Professional Degree Program Implementation

DATE: February 16, 2012

The Indiana General Assembly passed IC 21-12-13-3 to provide state aid, beginning with the 2012-2013 processing cycle, to students enrolled in certain "Professional Degree Programs" at institutions approved by the State Student Assistance Commission of Indiana ("SSACI"). Students must be eligible for a grant or reduction in tuition and fees in SSACI programs.

Eligibility

"Professional Degree Program" is defined as a four (4) or five (5) year postsecondary school course of study:

- to which a student may be admitted without completing an undergraduate degree;
- which leads to a degree that is not an undergraduate or graduate degree as determined by the commission; and
- which prepares the holder of the degree for a profession.

The professional degree program credit hours or semesters may not exceed the amount permitted for aid eligibility (8 semesters or equivalency) and must be used within eight (8) years after the date the individual first applies and becomes eligible for benefits under the applicable law.

Professional Degree Program students may apply for a reduction of tuition and fees in the following grant/scholarship programs:

- 1) Higher Education Award ("HEA") (IC-21-12-3)
- 2) Freedom of Choice Award ("FOC") (IC-21-12-4)
- 3) Twenty-first Century Scholarship (IC 21 12 8)
- 4) Part-Time Grant (IC 21-12-8)
- 5) Insurance Education Scholarship (IC 21-12-9) (not currently funded)
- 6) Minority Teacher/Special Services Scholarship ("MT") (IC 21-13-2)
- 7) Nursing Scholarship (IC 21-13-3)
- 8) National Guard Scholarship (12-13-4)
- 9) Tuition Exemption Senior Citizen Fund (IC 21-14-5) (not currently funded)
- 10) CVO programs
 - a. State Trooper permanently and totally disabled in line of duty (IC 10-12-2-6)
 - b. Child or Spouse of State Trooper permanently, totally disabled in line of duty (IC 10-2-2-11)
 - c. Child of a POW/MIA (IC 10-17-7)
 - d. Child of a Disabled Veteran (IC 21-14-4)
 - e. Child or Spouse of Public Safety Officer killed in line of duty (IC 21-14-6-3)
 - f. Child or Spouse of National Guard member killed in line of duty (IC 21-14-7)

- g. Purple Heart Recipient (IC 21-14-10)
- h. Child of Public Safety Officer killed in line of duty (IC 21-14-6-2)

Student Identification and School Reconciliation of Funds

Financial Aid offices will be responsible for determining a student's professional degree qualifying status as well as ensuring the degree program status for each student is being maintained.

Schools can report Professional Degree Program students to SSACI via APPL, NOTF, and RECN file exchange and xGrads.

After a school reports the Professional Degree Program students to SSACI, SSACI will determine state award eligibility and the school may then claim the funds in xGrads or file exchange. SSACI will pay the state grant award based on the SSACI undergraduate tuition rate CAP, as determined by SSACI, for the institution regardless of the tuition level charged to the student.

The attached 2012 grant file layout spreadsheet includes an updated APPL file description to reflect Professional Degree Programs. Detailed instructions will be available in the xGrads Information Files by March 1, 2012.

School partners with questions on this topic should contact SSACI at 317-232-2372 or via email at CollegeFA@ssaci.in.gov.

Students with questions should contact the SSACI Grant Division at 317-232-2372 or grants@ssaci.in.gov.