

for school administrators on issues affecting the financial aid community

accessupdate



New Need Access® Program Year Underway

We will be conducting several training sessions for Need Access users in the coming weeks, and we'd like your help in developing the best training program to meet your needs.

Whether you are a beginner, intermediate or an advanced user, we welcome your suggestions. Want to learn how to create reports? Wondering how to export data to your FAM system? Please share your questions and recommendations!

Send your e-mail to: schoolservices@accessgroup.org

New! Order a supply of our Need Access brochures for your students on the "Order Materials" page in the Financial Aid Administrators section of AccessGroup.Org.

Need technical assistance? Call our Need Access Help Line Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. ET at 800-282-1550, ext. 6457.

New WiseBorrower® Publication!

The latest addition to our WiseBorrower Education Series, "Looking Ahead to Graduate or Professional School," tells preprofessional students how to get financially fit and obtain the financial aid they need. It's now available to order at AccessGroup.Org.



Need more information about Access Group's 2008 Graduate and Professional Financial Aid Conference? Visit www.accessgroup.org/conf2008

In Observance of Thanksgiving

Access Group offices will be closed on Thursday, November 27, and Friday, November 28. As usual, our voice response unit will be in service, as will eAccess and My Account at AccessGroup.Org.

Reminder: HERA Cost of Attendance Provision

School administrators may now adjust a student's cost of attendance for expenses directly related to obtaining a professional license, if that expense is incurred during the student's enrollment at the institution. According to the Higher Education Reconciliation Act of 2005 (HERA), the expense must be a direct cost for licensure, such as the application fees to take the exam. Cost of attendance cannot, however, be adjusted for expenses associated with taking a course to prepare for the exam, such as a bar exam prep course.

Here is the guidance on "Cost of Attendance Components" from DCL GEN-06-05, Section 472 (4) and (11):

"In addition, the HERA amends the cost of attendance provisions to provide institutions the option of including in the cost of attendance the one-time cost of obtaining a first professional license or certificate for a student who is enrolled in a program that requires such professional licensure or certification. The licensure or certification must be required by a State or commonly accepted as required in order to practice or be employed in the profession. In order to be included in the cost of attendance, the cost for such licensure or certification must be incurred while the student is enrolled at the institution. This provision does not include costs associated with preparing the student for the test or examination required for licensure or certification unless such preparation is part of the eligible program."