

**Request for Approval under the “Generic Clearance for the Collection of Routine Customer Feedback” (OMB Control Number: 1880-0542)**

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**TITLE OF INFORMATION COLLECTION:** Usability Tree Testing of FederalStudentAid.gov proposed Information Architecture

**PURPOSE:** The Department of Education Office of Federal Student Aid has recently drafted a new site structure for their future StudentAid.gov website, which will combine three currently existing sites (studentaid.gov, nslds.ed.gov, studentloans.gov) in the next six months, and additional sites in the future. They want to gather feedback on this site structure from the users of the existing 3 sites, which include parents, students, and borrowers across the student aid lifecycle. The objectives of this round of testing are:

- Determine the effectiveness of the new studentaid.gov site structure and navigation labels
- Ensure that end users of studentaid.gov can complete specific core tasks efficiently and effectively

**DESCRIPTION OF RESPONDENTS:** Parents, students, and borrowers who are considering or have already accepted federal student aid, including loans, grants, and work-study. This includes respondents across the lifecycle of student aid, from consideration of aid, to application for aid through the FAFSA form, to acceptance of aid, and finally to the repayment of loans.

**TYPE OF COLLECTION:** (Check one)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Customer Comment Card/Complaint Form                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Customer Satisfaction Survey |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Usability Testing (e.g., Website or Software) | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Discussion Group       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Focus Group  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                 |

**CERTIFICATION:**

I certify the following to be true:

1. The collection is voluntary.
2. The collection is low-burden for respondents and low-cost for the Federal Government.
3. The collection is non-controversial and does not raise issues of concern to other federal agencies.
4. The results are not intended to be disseminated to the public.
5. Information gathered will not be used for the purpose of substantially informing influential policy decisions.
6. The collection is targeted to the solicitation of opinions from respondents who have experience with the program or may have experience with the program in the future.

Name: Tait Chamberlain (312-395-0473)\_\_\_\_\_

To assist review, please provide answers to the following question:

**Personally Identifiable Information:**

1. Is personally identifiable information (PII) collected?  Yes  No

2. If Yes, will any information that is collected be included in records that are subject to the Privacy Act of 1974?  Yes  No
3. If Yes, has an up-to-date System of Records Notice (SORN) been published?  Yes  No

**Gifts or Payments:**

Is an incentive (e.g., money or reimbursement of expenses, token of appreciation) provided to participants?  Yes  No

**BURDEN HOURS**

Category of Respondent	No. of Respondents	Participation Time	Burden
Individuals	200	25 min	83.3 hours
<b>Totals</b>	200	25 min	83.3 hours

**FEDERAL COST:** The estimated annual cost to the Federal government is \_\$0.00\_\_\_\_\_

**If you are conducting a focus group, survey, or plan to employ statistical methods, please provide answers to the following questions:**

**The selection of your targeted respondents**

1. Do you have a customer list or something similar that defines the universe of potential respondents and do you have a sampling plan for selecting from this universe?  

Yes       No

If the answer is yes, please provide a description of both below (or attach the sampling plan)? If the answer is no, please provide a description of how you plan to identify your potential group of respondents and how you will select them?

We will send an e-mail invitation to those who have indicated in previous interactions with FSA that they are interested in participating in usability testing to improve the student aid experience. In addition, we will reach out through social media channels to recruit participants across the student aid lifecycle.

The test we want to conduct is an unmoderated, online test that can be completed by any person to whom we send an e-mail invitation. Respondents will be asked to respond to multiple choice questions upfront, then they will complete a series of tasks by navigating our proposed site hierarchy using a tool called Treejack (from Optimal Workshop). Tasks are completed by finding the specific page in the hierarchy where they believe they can get what they need. The last part of the test includes optional questions that prompt users to provide brief written commentary about the new site structure. Each test should take no longer than 10–25 minutes.

We expect to get about 30 responses and not more than 200 responses. There is no need for us to personally select individual participants via a sampling plan or otherwise.

## Administration of the Instrument

1. How will you collect the information? (Check all that apply)
  - Web-based or other forms of Social Media
  - Telephone
  - In-person
  - Mail
  - Other, Explain
2. Will interviewers or facilitators be used?  Yes  No

**Please make sure that all instruments, instructions, and scripts are submitted with the request.**

## **Instructions for completing Request for Approval under the “Generic Clearance for the Collection of Routine Customer Feedback”**

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**TITLE OF INFORMATION COLLECTION:** Provide the name of the collection that is the subject of the request. (e.g. Comment card for soliciting feedback on xxxx)

**PURPOSE:** Provide a brief description of the purpose of this collection and how it will be used. If this is part of a larger study or effort, please include this in your explanation.

**DESCRIPTION OF RESPONDENTS:** Provide a brief description of the targeted group or groups for this collection of information. These groups must have experience with the program.

**TYPE OF COLLECTION:** Check one box. If you are requesting approval of other instruments under the generic, you must complete a form for each instrument.

**CERTIFICATION:** Please read the certification carefully. If you incorrectly certify, the collection will be returned as improperly submitted or it will be disapproved.

**Personally Identifiable Information:** Provide answers to the questions. Note: Agencies should only collect PII to the extent necessary, and they should only retain PII for the period of time that is necessary to achieve a specific objective.

**Gifts or Payments:** If you answer yes to the question, please describe the incentive and provide a justification for the amount.

### **BURDEN HOURS:**

**Category of Respondents:** Identify who you expect the respondents to be in terms of the following categories: (1) Individuals or Households; (2) Private Sector; (3) State, local, or tribal governments; or (4) Federal Government. Only one type of respondent can be selected per row.

**No. of Respondents:** Provide an estimate of the Number of Respondents.

**Participation Time:** Provide an estimate of the amount of time (in minutes) required for a respondent to participate (e.g. fill out a survey or participate in a focus group)

**Burden:** Provide the Annual burden hours: Multiply the Number of Respondents and the Participation Time then divide by 60.

**FEDERAL COST:** Provide an estimate of the annual cost to the Federal government.

**If you are conducting a focus group, survey, or plan to employ statistical methods, please provide answers to the following questions:**

**The selection of your targeted respondents.** Please provide a description of how you plan to identify your potential group of respondents and how you will select them. If the answer is yes, to the first question, you may provide the sampling plan in an attachment.

**Administration of the Instrument:** Identify how the information will be collected. More than one box may be checked. Indicate whether there will be interviewers (e.g. for surveys) or facilitators (e.g., for focus groups) used.

**Submit all instruments, instructions, and scripts are submitted with the request.**