

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT  
FOR PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION**  
Student disclosure acknowledgments

- 1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. What is the purpose for this information collection? Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection. Include a citation that authorizes the collection of information. Specify the review type of the collection (new, revision, extension, reinstatement with change, reinstatement without change). If revised, briefly specify the changes. If a rulemaking is involved, list the sections with a brief description of the information collection requirement, and/or changes to sections, if applicable.**

On January 18, 2022, the Department convened a negotiated rulemaking committee, the Institutional and Programmatic Eligibility Committee, to consider proposed regulations for the Federal Student Aid programs authorized under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, (HEA). Through the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) published on May 19, 2023, docket number ED-2022-OPE-0062, the Secretary proposed new regulations to promote transparency, competence, stability, and effective outcomes for students in the provision of postsecondary education.

The Final Rule under new § 668.407 establishes that prospective students must acknowledge having seen the information on the program information website maintained by the Secretary if an eligible non-Gainful Employment (non-GE) program has failed the debt-to-earnings (D/E) measure, and requires that students must provide the acknowledgment before the institution may disburse any title IV, HEA funds. The change to the regulations since the NPRM has changed the estimated burden for this collection as identified in the NPRM. The required acknowledgements now exclude undergraduate degree programs from the acknowledgment requirements at § 668.407(a).

This is a request for a change to the collection designated 1845-0174 by OMB during the NPRM stage of this information collection filing.

- 2. Indicate how, by whom, and for what purpose the information is to be used. Except for a new collection, indicate the actual use the agency has made of the information received from the current collection.**

This information will be reviewed and acknowledged by students who wish to enter a non-GE program which has been determined by Department calculations to have failed the D/E measure, excluding undergraduate degree programs. The prospective students will be directed by their institution to a Department maintained website to view the required program information. While at the Department's webpage, the student will be directed to acknowledge the information provided in order to receive any title IV, HEA federal student aid program funds to which the student is otherwise entitled.

- 3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or forms of information technology, e.g. permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision of adopting this means of collection. Please identify systems or websites used to electronically collect this information. Also describe any consideration given to using technology to reduce burden. If there is an increase or decrease in burden related to using technology (e.g. using an electronic form, system or website from paper), please explain in number 12.**

There is nothing in the regulations that prohibits or restricts the use of technology by institutions to direct students to the Department's program information website.

- 4. Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purposes described in Item 2 above.**

This information is not duplicated in any other information collection or system.

- 5. If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities, describe any methods used to minimize burden. A small entity may be (1) a small business which is deemed to be one that is independently owned and operated and that is not dominant in its field of operation; (2) a small organization that is any not-for-profit enterprise that is independently owned and operated and is not dominant in its field; or (3) a small government jurisdiction, which is a government of a city, county, town, township, school district, or special district with a population of less than 50,000.**

The Department does not believe the final regulations will adversely impact any institution that may meet the small entity designation. The Department will administer and maintain the acknowledgement and program information website and thus decrease the burden of development and maintenance for the institutions.

- 6. Describe the consequences to Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently, as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden.**

If the requirements in these final regulations do not occur, eligible students would be denied crucial information about their program of study and potentially enter a program that they may not be able to complete.

- 7. Explain any special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be conducted in a manner:**
- **requiring respondents to report information to the agency more often than quarterly;**
  - **requiring respondents to prepare a written response to a collection of information in fewer than 30 days after receipt of it;**

- requiring respondents to submit more than an original and two copies of any document;
- requiring respondents to retain records, other than health, medical, government contract, grant-in-aid, or tax records for more than three years;
- in connection with a statistical survey, that is not designed to produce valid and reliable results than can be generalized to the universe of study;
- requiring the use of a statistical data classification that has not been reviewed and approved by OMB;
- that includes a pledge of confidentiality that is not supported by authority established in statute or regulation, that is not supported by disclosure and data security policies that are consistent with the pledge, or that unnecessarily impedes sharing of data with other agencies for compatible confidential use; or
- requiring respondents to submit proprietary trade secrets, or other confidential information unless the agency can demonstrate that it has instituted procedures to protect the information's confidentiality to the extent permitted by law.

This information collection does not require any of the noted special circumstances.

8. **As applicable, state that the Department has published the 60 and 30 Federal Register notices as required by 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB.**

**Include a citation for the 60 day comment period (e.g. Vol. 84 FR ##### and the date of publication). Summarize public comments received in response to the 60 day notice and describe actions taken by the agency in response to these comments. Specifically address comments received on cost and hour burden. If only non-substantive comments are provided, please provide a statement to that effect and that it did not relate or warrant any changes to this information collection request. In your comments, please also indicate the number of public comments received.**

**For the 30 day notice, indicate that a notice will be published.**

**Describe efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instruction and record keeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.**

**Consultation with representatives of those from whom information is to be obtained or those who must compile records should occur at least once every 3 years – even if the collection of information activity is the same as in prior periods. There may be circumstances that may preclude consultation in a specific situation. These circumstances should be explained.**

The Department developed these regulations after conducting negotiated rulemaking with affected entities and other interested parties. The public comment period for this information collection ran concurrently with the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

There were no specific comments related to the burden for this information collection. Changes have been made to the estimated burden based on regulatory language changes based in part on public comments received.

**9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees with meaningful justification.**

No payments or gifts will be provided to respondents.

**10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy. If personally identifiable information (PII) is being collected, a Privacy Act statement should be included on the instrument. Please provide a citation for the Systems of Record Notice and the date a Privacy Impact Assessment was completed as indicated on the IC Data Form. A confidentiality statement with a legal citation that authorizes the pledge of confidentiality should be provided.<sup>1</sup> If the collection is subject to the Privacy Act, the Privacy Act statement is deemed sufficient with respect to confidentiality. If there is no expectation of confidentiality, simply state that the Department makes no pledge about the confidentiality of the data. If no PII will be collected, state that no assurance of confidentiality is provided to respondents. If the Paperwork Burden Statement is not included physically on a form, you may include it here. Please ensure that your response per respondent matches the estimate provided in number 12.**

There are no assurances of confidentiality provided to States regarding this information.

**11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private. The justification should include the reasons why the agency considers the questions necessary, the specific uses to be made of the information, the explanation to be given to persons from whom the information is requested, and any steps to be taken to obtain their consent.**

There are no questions of a sensitive nature in this collection.

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<sup>1</sup> Requests for this information are in accordance with the following ED and OMB policies: Privacy Act of 1974, OMB Circular A-108 – Privacy Act Implementation – Guidelines and Responsibilities, OMB Circular A-130 Appendix I – Federal Agency Responsibilities for Maintaining Records About Individuals, OMB M-03-22 – OMB Guidance for Implementing the Privacy Provisions of the E-Government Act of 2002, OMB M-06-15 – Safeguarding Personally Identifiable Information, OM:6-104 – Privacy Act of 1974 (Collection, Use and Protection of Personally Identifiable Information)

**12. Provide estimates of the hour burden for this current information collection request. The statement should:**

- **Provide an explanation of how the burden was estimated, including identification of burden type: recordkeeping, reporting or third party disclosure. Address changes in burden due to the use of technology (if applicable). Generally, estimates should not include burden hours for customary and usual business practices.**
- **Please do not include increases in burden and respondents numerically in this table. Explain these changes in number 15.**
- **Indicate the number of respondents by affected public type (federal government, individuals or households, private sector – businesses or other for-profit, private sector – not-for-profit institutions, farms, state, local or tribal governments), frequency of response, annual hour burden. Unless directed to do so, agencies should not conduct special surveys to obtain information on which to base hour burden estimates. Consultation with a sample (fewer than 10) of potential respondents is desirable.**
- **If this request for approval covers more than one form, provide separate hour burden estimates for each form and aggregate the hour burden in the table below.**
- **Provide estimates of annualized cost to respondents of the hour burdens for collections of information, identifying and using appropriate wage rate categories. [Use this site](#) to research the appropriate wage rate. The cost of contracting out or paying outside parties for information collection activities should not be included here. Instead, this cost should be included in Item 14. If there is no cost to respondents, indicate by entering 0 in the chart below and/or provide a statement.**

The final rule provides in § 668.407(a) that a student will be required to provide an acknowledgment of the D/E rate information for any year for which the Secretary notifies an institution that the program has failing D/E rates for the year in which the D/E rates were most recently calculated by the Department. The final rule excludes undergraduate degree programs from the acknowledgment requirements at § 668.407(a).

The final regulatory language in § 668.407 will add burden to institutions. The changes in § 668.407 will require institutions to develop and provide notices to prospective students that they are required to review information on the Secretary's website and complete acknowledge that they have viewed this information if the program to which they are applying has unacceptable D/E rates. The institution would also be obligated to check whether an individual has completed the acknowledgment before entering into an agreement to enroll the student. However, to reduce burden for institutions and students, such an acknowledgment will only be required when a student will attend a program that does not lead to an undergraduate degree and leads to high debt burden, or when a student will attend a GE program at risk of losing title IV, HEA eligibility.

In the burden calculation for § 668.407 we account for burden for non-GE programs. We account for all burden related to GE programs, including where such burden comes from provisions that apply to all programs, as in 668.407, under our discussion of 668.605.

We believe that most institutions will develop the notice directing impacted students to the Department's program information website and make it available electronically to current and prospective students. We believe that this action will require an estimated 1 hour per affected program.

We estimate that it would take private institutions 670 hours (670 programs x 1 hour = 670) to develop and deliver the required notice based on the information provided by the Department.

We estimate that it will take public institutions 109 hours (109 programs x 1 hour = 109) to develop and deliver the required notice based on the information provided by the Department.

The changes in § 668.407(a) will require institutions to direct prospective and students enrolled in programs that failed the D/E rates for the year in which the D/E rates were most recently calculated by the Department to the Department's program information website.

We estimate that it will take the 88,000 students 10 minutes to read the notice and go to the program information website to acknowledge receiving the information for a total of hours (88,000 students x .17 hours = 14,960).

The total estimated increase in burden to OMB Control Number 1845-0174 for § 668.407 is 15,739 hours with a total rounded estimated cost of \$370,441.

The monetized net cost of the increased burden for institutions was calculated using wage data developed using Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data. For individuals we have used the median hourly wage for all occupations, \$22.26 per hour according to BLS. [https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_nat.htm#00-0000](https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_nat.htm#00-0000). For institutions we have used the median hourly wage for Education Administrators, Postsecondary, \$48.05 per hour according to BLS. <https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes119033.htm>.

### Estimated Annual Burden and Respondent Costs Table

Information Activity or IC (with type of respondent)	Number of Respondents	Number of Responses	Average Burden Hours per Response	Total Annual Burden Hours	Estimated Respondent Average Hourly Wage	Total Annual Costs (hourly wage x total burden hours)
Individual	88,000	88,000	.17	14,960	\$22.26	\$33,010
For-Profit Institutions	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Private Institutions	134	670	1	670	\$48.05	\$32,194
Public Institutions	11	109	1	109	\$48.05	\$5,237
Annualized Totals	88,145	99,88+		15,739		\$370,441

*Please ensure the annual total burden, respondents and response match those entered in IC Data Parts 1 and 2, and the response per respondent matches the Paperwork Burden Statement that must be included on all forms.*

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to respondents or record keepers resulting from the collection of information. (Do not include the cost of any hour burden shown in Items 12 and 14.)
- The cost estimate should be split into two components: (a) a total capital and start-up cost component (annualized over its expected useful life); and (b) a total operation and maintenance and purchase of services component. The estimates should take into account costs associated with generating, maintaining, and disclosing or providing the information. Include descriptions of methods used to estimate major cost factors including system and technology acquisition, expected useful life of capital equipment, the discount rate(s), and the time period over which costs will be incurred. Capital and start-up costs include, among other items, preparations for collecting information such as purchasing computers and software; monitoring, sampling, drilling and testing equipment; and acquiring and maintaining record storage facilities.
  - If cost estimates are expected to vary widely, agencies should present ranges of cost burdens and explain the reasons for the variance. The cost of contracting out information collection services should be a part of this cost burden estimate. In developing cost burden estimates, agencies may consult with a sample of respondents (fewer than 10), utilize the 60-day pre-OMB submission public comment process and use existing economic or regulatory impact analysis associated with the rulemaking containing the information collection, as appropriate.
  - Generally, estimates should not include purchases of equipment or services, or portions thereof, made: (1) prior to October 1, 1995, (2) to achieve regulatory compliance with requirements not associated with the information collection, (3) for reasons other than to provide information or keep records for the government or (4) as part of customary and usual business or private practices.

Also, these estimates should not include the hourly costs (i.e., the monetization of the hours) captured above in Item 12.

Total Annualized Capital/Startup Cost :  
 Total Annual Costs (O&M) : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Annualized Costs Requested :

There is no additional cost.

14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government. Also, provide a description of the method used to estimate cost, which should include quantification of hours, operational expenses (such as equipment, overhead, printing, and support staff), and any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information. Agencies also may aggregate cost estimates from Items 12, 13, and 14 in a single table.

There is no additional cost to the Federal government.

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments. Generally, adjustments in burden result from re-estimating burden and/or from economic phenomenon outside of an agency's control (e.g., correcting a burden estimate or an organic increase in the size of the reporting universe). Program changes result from a deliberate action that materially changes a collection of information and generally are result of new statute or an agency action (e.g., changing a form, revising regulations, redefining the respondent universe, etc.). Burden changes should be disaggregated by type of change (i.e., adjustment, program change due to new statute, and/or program change due to agency discretion), type of collection (new, revision, extension, reinstatement with change, reinstatement without change) and include totals for changes in burden hours, responses and costs (if applicable).

Provide a descriptive narrative for the reasons of any change in addition to completing the table with the burden hour change(s) here.

	Program Change Due to New Statute	Program Change Due to Agency Discretion	Change Due to Adjustment in Agency Estimate
<b>Total Burden</b>		+15,739	
<b>Total Responses</b>		+88,779	
<b>Total Costs (if applicable)</b>			

This is a request for a new collection with change in burden due to the final regulation. The Department is requesting an increase of 15,739 hours for 88,145 respondents and 88,779 responses.



- 16. For collections of information whose results will be published, outline plans for tabulation and publication. Address any complex analytical techniques that will be used. Provide the time schedule for the entire project, including beginning and ending dates of the collection of information, completion of report, publication dates, and other actions.**

This information collection will not be published.

- 17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate.**

The Department is not seeking this approval.

- 18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in the Certification of Paperwork Reduction Act.**

The Department is not requesting any exceptions to the "Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions" of OMB Form 83-I.