Subsidized Usage Limit Applies (SULA) Misunderstandings & Misreporting

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Session Description

This session will address common Subsidized Usage Limit Applies (SULA) misunderstandings and misreporting.

We'll begin with an overview of concepts and the requirements of the 150% limit. We'll delve into how reporting mistakes and some processing shortcuts can impact a borrower's subsidized loan eligibility or result in a loss of subsidy. Included will be guidance on how to configure a loan when remaining subsidized eligibility is less than 1.0 year.

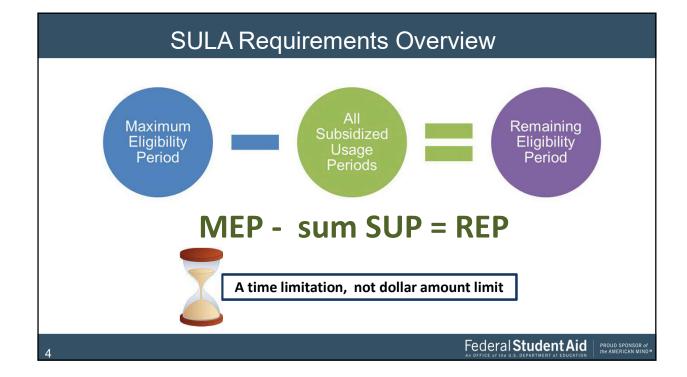
The goal is clean SULA processing and no longer needing a prior award year re-opened to make necessary corrections.

Agenda

- **SULA Requirements Overview**
- Common Origination & Disbursement (COD) Reporting
 - Misunderstandings & Misreporting
 - Remaining eligibility less than 1.0 year
 - Closing out the award year



- National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS®) Reporting
 - Loss of subsidy
- Resources



Maximum Eligibility Period

- Maximum Eligibility Period (MEP) 150% of the published program length
 - schools report the published program length
 - COD and NSLDS will then calculate the MEP



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Published Program Length

- COD and NSLDS first convert the length to years if not already reported that way
 - reported in years: we use what you report
 - reported in months: converted to years
 - reported in weeks: converted to years

Converting to Years

Conversion Formulas

- **PPLY** = (PPLM X 30) ÷ (WPAY X 7)
- **PPLY** = PPLW ÷ WPAY

Legend

- PPLY: Published Program Length in Years
- PPLM: Published Program Length in Months
- **PPLW**: Published Program Length in Weeks
- WPAY: Weeks Programs Academic Year
- **COD:** Common Origination & Disbursement
- NSLDS: National Student Loan Data System



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Subsidized Usage Period

- Subsidized Usage Period (SUP) the amount of subsidized eligibility a loan uses
- COD follows these steps, in order, to calculate a SUP:
 - SUP = length of loan period ÷ length of academic year



- 2. Loan limit exception: if loan amount is at the annual limit ignore the SUP from above and set it to 1.0 year
- *Enrollment exception:* if enrollment is three quarters time or half-time multiply SUP by .75 or .5, respectively

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Other Impacts on the SUP

- Overlapping loan periods COD counts loan period days only once and will allocate overlapping days evenly across loans
- Full disbursement returned within 120 days -Update the loan period and amount and corresponding subsidized usage will be removed
- Closed school loan discharge removes subsidized usage (but paid off loan does not)

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Remaining Eligibility Period

- Remaining Eligibility Period (**REP**) is the difference between the program's MEP and the sum of SUPs from all prior loans
 - if the loan's SUP exceeds the REP it will reject (edit code 206)
 - may be able to re-configure the loan to reduce the SUP
 - otherwise, REP cannot be used at this time
 - · can still award unsubsidized



10

Who Does What?

- System of record
 - COD runs edits on incoming records to block loans/disbursements that would exceed the MEP

Edit 206 Ioan reject?

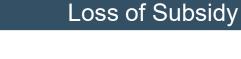


 NSLDS determines eligibility to retain the interest subsidy on loans already awarded

Loss of subsidy (LOS)?



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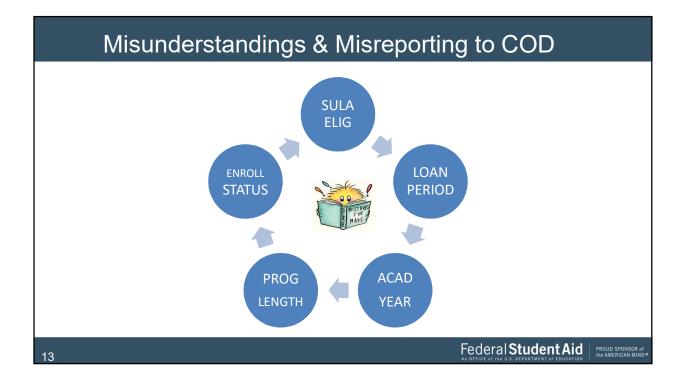
 Will only trigger if all three of these Loss of Subsidy conditions are present at the same time (but only need to be present for as little as one day)



1. Remaining **Eligibility Period**

2. No Completion 3. Triggering Enrollment

Loss of Subsidy



All Prior Subsidized Usage Counts

Student just began in our program but the loan rejected (edit 206). How can the student have run out of eligibility already?

- Regardless of the program or school, or even if the student completed the prior program, all prior subsidized usage counts against the current MEP
- There is just one exception usage from non-credential teacher certification programs calculated separately

New Loans Despite a Loss of Subsidy

Since the student has a loss of subsidy on a loan does that mean no more subsidized loans can be awarded?

Not necessarily because the student may now be in a longer program with a higher MEP and thus more eligibility for subsidized loans

15

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No More Subsidized Eligibility – at this time

REP is too low for another subsidized loan so can we no longer worry about awarding subsidized loans?

- Things change so having no additional subsidized eligibility may not be permanent
 - student could return less than full-time
 - student could enroll in a longer program
 - an update/correction may be made on a prior loan
 - · a prior loan could go through a closed school discharge
 - using the 120-day rule student could return a full disbursement to the school

Accepted then Rejected

If the loan origination record was accepted then how come it's now rejecting when I submit actual disbursements?

- That question is usually followed with a ... grrr!
- **Something changed** usually the enrollment status was reported as less than full-time in the origination, full-time on the actual disbursement
- But we also sometimes see a shorter program length reported on the actual disbursement
- Best tool to see what was actually sent **COD Batch Search**



17

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Serial Loans

Can schools report a series of single-term loans instead of a single subsidized loan for the entire academic year?

- Yes, but in addition to the increased workload:
 - would still need to do multiple disbursements for each loan (unless default rate warranted single disbursements)
 - COD rounds at the loan level, not the academic year level
 - 4 SUPs: 0.25 X 4 = **1.2 years** (each 0.25 first rounds to 0.3)
 - 3 SUPs: 0.33 X 3 = **0.9 year** (each 0.33 first rounds to 0.3)

PPSD is *not* the Loan Period Start Date

All the loan's Payment Period Start Dates (PPSDs) are the same (usually the loan period begin date)

- PPSD should be the first day of each term or payment period
- School's reported PPSDs:

fall start: 9/10/17 disbursement: full-time PPSD: 9/10 - winter start: 1/10/18 disbursement: three quarters time PPSD: 9/10

- spring start: 3/10/18 disbursement: half-time PPSD: 9/10

COD calculates this SUP: 1.0 year

Correct SUP: 0.8 year

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Enrollment as of the Disbursement Date

Reporting the enrollment status as of the census date instead of the disbursement date

Report enrollment status as of the disbursement date

- fall disbursement date: 9/10/17 (enrollment this date was half-time)
- school census date: 9/20/17 (enrollment this date was full-time)
- incorrect enrollment status reported to COD: full-time
- **result:** inaccurate subsidized usage calculation (in this example student is overcharged usage)



20

19

Degree Completion Programs

Misreported program length for students in Bachelor's Degree Completion Program or Special Admission Associate's Degree Program

If these programs qualify they should be reported as 4-year programs

- Programs are being reported to COD and NSLDS as 2 years, resulting in loans rejected by COD for exceeding the MEP and in loss of subsidy determinations at NSLDS
 - Incidentally, just because a student is completing a bachelor's degree does not make it a Bachelor's Degree Completion Program

21

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EA #8 1/17/2014

Loan Period Dates

Loan period dates do not coincide with dates of terms/payment periods

fall term: 9/**10**/18 – 12/15/18 spring term: 1/10/19 - 5/20/19

incorrect loan period reported: 9/20/18 - 5/10/19

SUP: 0.9 year

Why did the school report this? Because REP = 0.9 year

School shaved off days from the beginning/ending of the loan period until the SUP did not exceed the REP



Academic Year Dates

Incorrectly reported academic year dates impact SUP and annual loan limit calculations

- In addition to causing headaches for transfer students with annual loan limits
- It is a basic element of a loan's subsidized usage calculation:

SUP = length of loan period ÷ length of academic year

- The academic year you report should be the period used to track annual loan limits
- Regulatory minimum is 26 weeks or 30 weeks
- A single-term academic year is never correct

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Reporting Summers

Misreporting summer can impact a loan's subsidized usage

- This pertains to scheduled academic year reporting with summer headers or trailers
- Report summer as part of the academic year only if:
 - · you require summer enrollment, or
 - a summer disbursement is made (and retained)



24

23

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When to Add (or *Subtract*) a Summer

Scheduled Academic Year schools with a summer header or trailer reporting summer in academic year though no summer disbursement was made and summer enrollment not required

- Disbursements made: fall, winter, spring
- Loan period: fall-winter-spring
- Academic year: fall-winter-spring-summer
- SUP = length of LP ÷ length of AY = 3 terms/4 terms = ~0.75 year
- SUP should be 1.0 year
- Update the academic year to remove summer

25

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When to Add (or Subtract) a Summer

Fall-spring loan awarded, later a summer loan added but failed to update the fall-spring loan's academic year to include summer

Wrong:

001 loan SUP = fall-spring / fall-spring = 2/2 = 1.0 year

002 loan SUP = summer / fall-spring-summer = 1/3 = 0.3 year

Update the academic year to add summer Right:

001 loan SUP = fall-spring / fall-spring-summer = 2/3 = 0.7 year

002 loan SUP = summer / fall-spring-summer = 1/3 = 0.3 year



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Published Program Length

Since when is 24 months not 2 years?

- Since your academic year is not 52 weeks long
- If you have a Weeks Programs Academic Year of 30 weeks
- Then a 24-month program converts to 3.428 years
- A 2-year program has a MEP of 3.0 years
- But a 3.428-year program has a MEP of 5.1 years
- Have you been awarding over 3.0 years of subsidized loans?
 - · those loans will need to be removed
 - cannot be retroactively replaced with unsubsidized loans



27

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Reporting Published Program Length

What to report to COD and NSLDS

- If published (catalog, website, promotional materials) report to COD and NSLDS what was published
- If not published and it's an associate or bachelor's degree program report 2 years or 4 years, respectively, unless the academic design of the program makes it longer or shorter than typical
- For all other programs where school has not published the program length it is based on the school's determination of how long, in weeks, months, or years, the program is designed for a full-time student to complete



Loan Updates

When do loans need to be updated?

- If you added summer to the academic year of the 001 loan (slide 26) but the student doesn't get that summer disbursement after all (or receives it but it is later zeroed out) – be sure to go back in and remove the summer
- On any loan if a disbursement is not made that pending disbursement must be zeroed out
- Reduce the loan amount to the total amount disbursed
- Shorten the loan period so only terms/payment periods with a disbursement made and retained are included
- Loan update timing is under the 15-day reporting requirement

29

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Remaining Eligibility Less than 1.0 Year

- Still may be able to award another subsidized loan
- Are any loans already on the system which when corrected/updated will free up subsidized eligibility?
- If loan was rejected (edit 206) may be able to reconfigure and resubmit it
- Reducing the loan period, if appropriate (next slide), is usually a necessary step
- If loan limit exception triggered the loan amount will need to be backed off the annual limit (but any amount will stop the exception from triggering)
- Were the enrollment statuses & program length correctly reported?

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EA #20

10/19/2015

Minimum Loan Period

- Credit-hour, standard term or non-standard term SE9W* programs: minimum loan period is the term
- Clock-hour, non-term or non-standard term NSE9W* programs: minimum loan period is the lesser of:
 - length of the program
 - remaining portion of the program
 - academic year
 - remaining period to "finish out" the academic year of the transfer student

*SE9W: Substantially Equal terms at least 9 Weeks in length *NSE9W: Non SE9W

31

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Reducing the Loan Amount for Edit 206

- Loan limit exception is the second step in COD's calculation of a loan's subsidized usage
 - but the enrollment exception is the third step (slide 8)
 - may not have to reduce the loan amount if the enrollment exception would take the SUP down to the REP or less
 - but if you do need to reduce the loan amount a reduction of any amount less than the annual loan limit will keep the exception from triggering
 - don't multiply the REP by the annual loan limit [common mistake]
 - but don't exceed need for the (new) loan period of course

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Record Rejected at COD

- Whether it was SULA edit-206 or any other reject (i.e. loan fee)
- COD treats a rejected record as if it was never sent



- So if the loan was never accepted at COD it doesn't need to be inactivated at COD
- Sending in zeroed out disbursements (and loan amount) on a loan they don't have will just get that one rejected too (doesn't do much for your attitude either)
- You can still see what you sent that got rejected but only in Batch Search (think of it as the front porch where packages are delivered before being allowed in the front door)

33

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Closing out the Award Year

SULA updates must be completed as you are processing loans

- •15-day reporting requirement prevails over program year closeout cleanup activities
- But certainly before you close the year all unused (pending) disbursements must be zeroed out (on all loan types)
- Loan amount reduced to the sum of the actual disbursements
- •Loan periods to contain only terms/payment periods with disbursements
- Academic years correctly reported/updated

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6/29/2017

SULA Adjustments Needed Report

- Report will be renamed Discrepant Loan Data Report
 - Report identifies corrections needed for all loan types
 - Sent to schools near the end of their award year loan processing. (keys off latest loan period end date) EA #24
 - Schools are responsible for making the corrections
 - Once closeout is confirmed, COD will make the updates it can if schools failed to so to keep the student from being harmed
 - · COD will not make changes to academic year dates
 - COD does not know when a term/payment period ends, only when it began, so when it has to shorten a loan period it's just an approximation

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A Caution When Closing out the Award Year

- Take a moment and check what award year is being displayed before clicking on the Balance Confirmation on the COD website
 - Remember that after a new award year is added to COD that award year becomes the default
 - On a couple of occasions when schools thought they were confirming closeout for one award year they didn't realize a different award year was displayed
 - COD then went in and zeroed out all their pending disbursements and reduced all the loan amounts to zero!



36

Re-opening a Closed-out the Award Year

Despite enhanced COD SULA processing and edits implemented in late 2016 – you may still occasionally need to re-open an award year (hopefully rarely)



- Request extended processing on the COD website (call COD for guidance if needed 1-800-848-0978)
- Be aware that a re-opened award year generates an automatic email sent to the school president
- Some schools find it beneficial to give the president's office a heads-up that one is coming (may limit unnecessary freak-outs)



37

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SULA Adjustments Needed Report - enhancements

- **Discrepant Loan Data Report**
 - COD release implementation on 12/7 12/9/2018
 - Loans that are inactive will no longer display
 - Loans that have all the disbursements' Payment Period Start Dates (PPSD) the same will no longer display IF the loan period is shorter than the academic year
 - · to remove single-term loans where multiple disbursements would naturally have the same PPSD
 - Formatting/structure clean-up for ease of use

	LOS vs. Reinstatements											
	Total Number of Loans that have Lost Interest Subsidy	Total Number of Borrowers that have Lost Interest Subsidy	Total Number of Schools that have a loan that has Lost Interest Subsidy									
	305,959	101,665	4,996 Total Number of Schools that have a loan that has Interest Subsidy Reinstated 4,557									
	Total Number of Loans that have Interest Subsidy Reinstated	Total Number of Borrowers that have Interest Subsidy Reinstated										
	151,833	55,981										
	* As of: October 2018											
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Common Misreporting to NSLDS

- Most common reporting problems include the following fields:
 - Program Status Effective Date
 - Program Begin Date
 - Published Program Length
- Two common reporting scenarios that cause Loss of Subsidy (LOS):
 - · Incorrect data or improper gaps in enrollment
 - Enrollment information reported by other schools

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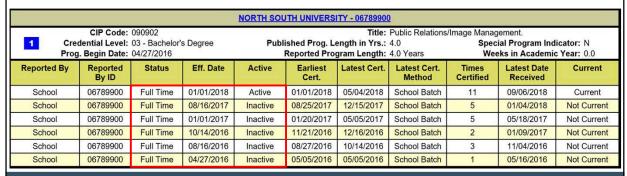
Program Effective Date

- The Program Status Effective Date is the *earliest* date when the student's program status first took effect
 - The student's status is critical to determining borrower's eligibility to retain subsidy on their loans
 - The Program Status Effective Date should remain the same as long as the student stays enrolled in the same enrollment status

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Program Effective Date

- Advancing the Program Status Effective Date using the existing status is considered a correction to previously reported records
- Do not advance the Program Status Effective Date unless the student's enrollment status changed since the last reporting



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Program Begin Date

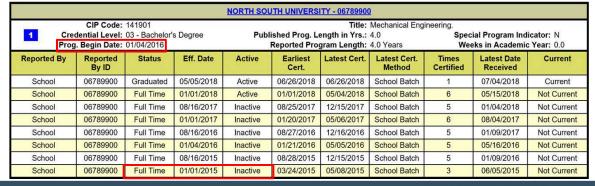
- The Program Begin Date is the date the student first began attending the program being reported
 - The Program Begin Date is important because it helps establish the start of the student's Maximum Eligibility Period (MEP)
 - If a student withdraws from the program and later returns to the exact same program, the school is not required to report a newer Program Begin Date

43

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Program Begin Date

The Program Begin Date is the date the student started in the program of study and does *not* change based on a new term date



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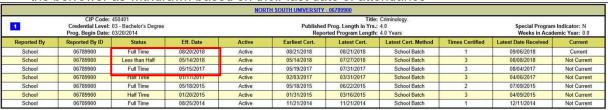
Published Program Length

- Schools have the option to report the Published Program Length (PPL) in Weeks, Months or Years.
 See Electronic Announcement #17 (4/20/15) for what length is appropriate to report
- When the PPL is reported in Months or Weeks, NSLDS uses a conversion based on the 'Weeks in Programs Academic Year' (WPAY) field to determine the Published Program Length in Years
- Conversion formula if schools report in Months: PPLY = (PPLM X 30) / (WPAY X 7) and if schools report in Weeks: PPLY = PPLW / WPAY
 - 4 years = 4 PPLY X 150% = 6.0 MEP
 - 48 months = (48 PPLM x 30)/(32 WPAY x 7) = 6.428 PPLY X 150% = 9.642 MEP
 - 208 weeks = 208 PPLW /32 = 6.5 PPLY X 150% = 9.75 MEP

NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY - 06789900													
CIP Code: 270101					Title: Mathematics, General.								
1 Cre	Credential Level: 03 - Bachelor's D Prog. Begin Date: 10/26/2017			Pub	blished Prog. Length in Yrs.: 6.428			Special Program Indicator: N					
						Reported Program Length: 48.0 Months			Weeks in Academic Year: 32.0				
Reported By	Reported By ID	Status	Eff. Date	Active	Earliest Cert.	Latest Cert.	Latest Cert. Method	Times Certified	Latest Date Received	Current			
School	00116400	Full Time	01/29/2018	Active	02/14/2018	05/23/2018	School Batch	8	09/05/2018	Current			
45 See NSLDS EA 22 for more information. Federal Student Aid As OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION The AMERICAN MINDS													

Reporting Continuous Enrollment

- A student is considered to be <u>continuously enrolled</u> during a period of non-required attendance (ex. summer) if the student is expected to return for the next regularly scheduled term:
 - There is no reason for the school to believe that the student will not enroll on an at least half time basis for the next regularly scheduled term; and
 - The student was enrolled at least half time at the end of the previous regularly scheduled term
- If the student does not return for the next regularly scheduled term, the school should report
 the borrower as withdrawn based on their last date of attendance

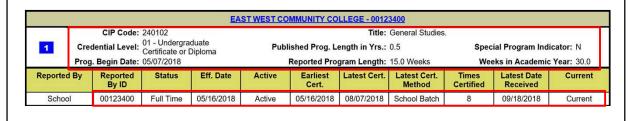


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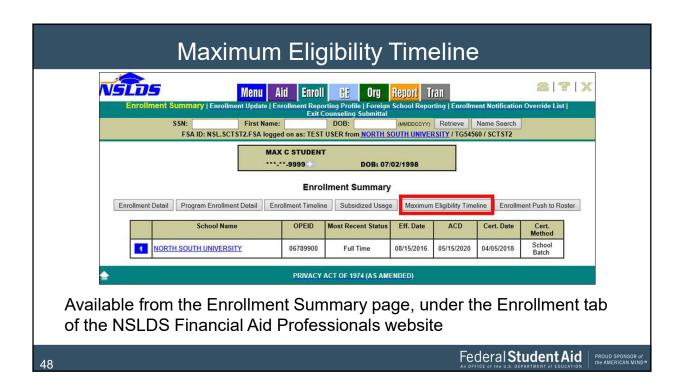
Reporting Students not Enrolled in a Program

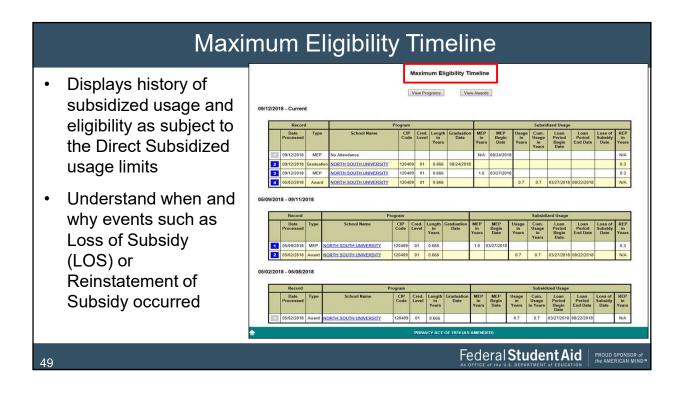
- If a student is not seeking a credential at your school then the student should not have program-level enrollment reported on their behalf.
 - · Examples include: Visiting Students, Transient Students, and other non-degree seeking courses
- Schools are permitted to report campus-level enrollment for these types of students

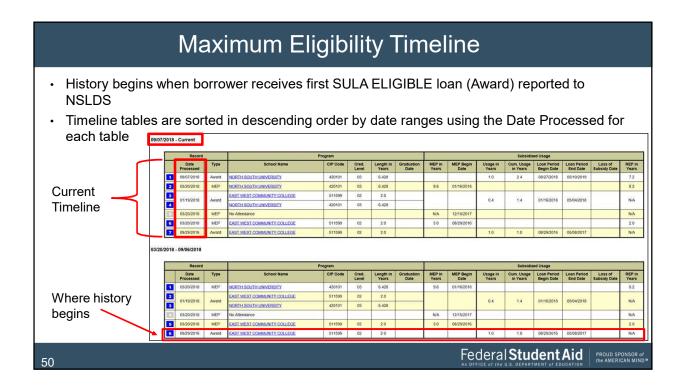


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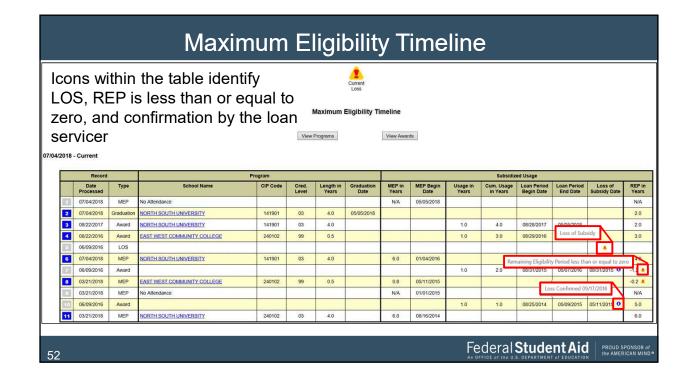
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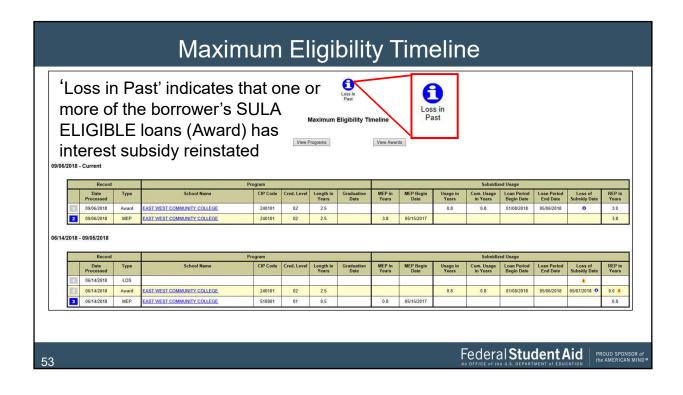


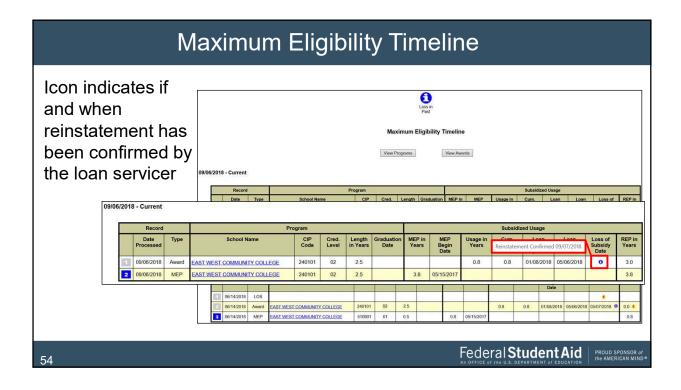


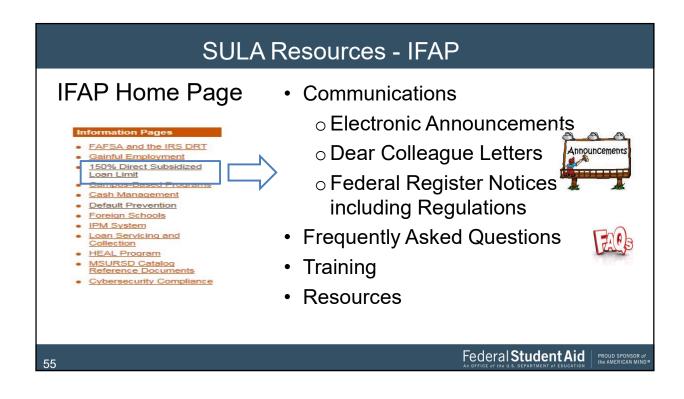


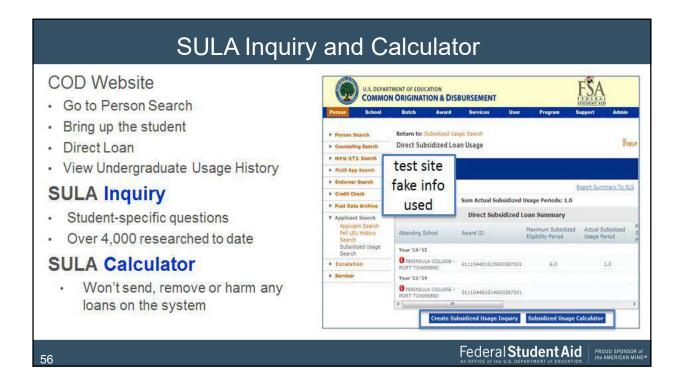












Contact Information

Contact us with follow-up questions about this session:

FAA policy questions: AskAFed@ed.gov

57

