



Department of
Higher Education

John R. Kasich, Governor
John Carey, Chancellor

FINANCIAL AID GUIDANCE MEMO

REFERENCE:	FA 16-006
TOPIC:	NURSE EDUCATION ASSISTANCE LOAN PROGRAM (NEALP)
AUTHOR:	LISA REED, PROGRAM MANAGER
DATE:	AUGUST 11, 2015
RELEVANT STATUTE:	OHIO REVISED CODE, SECTION 3333.28

In accordance with the attached Directive 2012-006, signed and authorized by the Chancellor, nursing students enrolled with current educational goals of Associate Degree, RN, Bachelor's Degree, RN (including students in an RN to BSN completion program), Diploma, RN, or Graduate Degree in Nursing, should be verified for maximum annual award eligibility of \$1,500. Nursing students enrolled with a current educational goal of Master's of Nursing Education, should be verified for maximum annual award eligibility of \$6,000 (may include students enrolled in graduate program other than nursing education, such as public policy or healthcare administration, for whom we have a letter of intent to teach on file in our office).

Due to the continued abundance of practicing LPN, NEALP will once again make awards for the 2015-2016 academic year only to RN and nurse instructor candidates. *LPN applicants will not be eligible for NEALP funding for the 2015-2016 academic year.* All LPN applicants have been informed of this development and no LPN applicants will be included in the initial verification process.

Those institutions that offer qualified nursing programs and those that have been listed as schools of enrollment by applicants should have access to the *NEALP Verification File* as of today. A follow-up reminder email will be sent to each participating institution's NEALP contact with a deadline of **Wednesday, August 26, 2015**, to complete and submit the verification files.

The verification file serves as a tool for schools to confirm each applicant's enrollment in a qualifying nursing program. Keep in mind that the fact that a student may already hold a nursing license does not eliminate that student from consideration as long as he/she is currently enrolled in a qualifying nursing program indicated above (may include an LPN to RN bridge program). Schools must verify that the student has not exceeded twelve quarters or eight semesters and/or the total aggregate loan amount of twelve thousand dollars of NEALP funding. Schools must submit verification files by the due date in order for eligible students at their institutions to be considered for funding.

Once all institutional verification files are received and loaded, we will make the awards based on the funding allotment for the current academic year. Each applicant will be contacted by our office regardless of whether the applicant receives funding.

Those schools with NEALP recipients will need to access and submit the *NEALP Certification File* in order to officially request payment on behalf of their eligible students; an email will be sent from our office to notify schools as soon as the certification queries are available. Remember that institutions must have their academic calendar set in the HEI system in order to access these files after the 15th day of each term. Students must be enrolled at least half-time in order to receive NEALP benefits in any given term of study.

For RN applicant, the 2015-2016 maximum *annual* award amount is once again \$1,500. For nurse instructor applicants, the 2015-2016 maximum *annual* award amount is \$6,000. Financial aid personnel should direct questions to the Nurse Education Assistance Loan Program Manager, Lisa Reed, 614.466.3561, lreed@regents.state.oh.us