

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
FEDERAL STUDENT AID
AMENDMENT TO TITLE IV PROGRAM PARTICIPATION
AGREEMENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE
QUALITY ASSURANCE (QA) PROGRAM**

Name of Institution:

Address:

Office of Postsecondary Education Identification Number:

The postsecondary educational institution listed above, referred to hereafter as the “Institution”, and the United States Secretary of Education, referred to hereafter as the “Secretary ” agree that the Institution, pursuant to Section 487A of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (Title IV, HEA Programs) is exempt from the provision(s) of the Act and applicable regulations identified below. The Institution also agrees to abide by the QA Program requirements as set forth in this amendment to the Program Participation Agreement (PPA). As used in this Amendment, the term “Department” refers to the U.S. Department of Education. This amendment and subsequent correspondence relating to it should be kept with the existing Title IV Program Participation Agreement.

Specifically, the institution is authorized to participate in the Department’s QA Program which provides for an Institution’s development and implementation of a comprehensive system to verify student financial aid application data and perform an institutional assessment that will enhance program integrity within the student aid delivery system.

By signing this Amendment to the Title IV Program Participation Agreement (PPA), the institution understands and agrees to the following:

Institutional Commitments

Institutions participating in the QA Program conduct qualitative and quantitative assessments to ensure that the delivery of student aid funds is conducted accurately, expediently, and with integrity.

Institutions joining the QA Program during award year 2001 or later will annually:

- ◆ Complete at least 2 Federal Student Aid assessments, using results to make management enhancements and improvements.
- ◆ Design and implement a comprehensive program to verify student financial aid application data based on analysis of institution specific data.
- ◆ Use the ISIR Analysis Tool each year, follow biennial sampling protocols, and make the data available for ED to compile a program-wide annual report.
- ◆ Analyze changes in ISIR data from the ISIR Analysis Tool reports and refine institutional verification parameters for subsequent years.
- ◆ Complete QA reporting requirements.

- ◆ Participate in Federal Student Aid sponsored opportunities to learn about the Program requirements, the ISIR Analysis Tool, and data analysis.

Exemption from Regulations

As an authorized participant of the QA Program, the Institution is exempted from the following selected reporting or verification regulations:

34 CFR 668.53(a)(1); (2); (3) and (4); 668.54(a)(1); (2); and (4); 668.56; 668.57; and 668.60(a). (Refer to the Federal Student Aid Compilation of Regulations for specific amendment and effective dates for sections listed above.)

Institutions continue to have the responsibility to comply with the following verification regulations:

34 CFR 668.51, 668.52, 668.53(a)(5), 668.53(b), 668.54(a)(3), (a)(5), 668.54(b), 668.55, 668.58, 668.59, 668.60(b), (c), (d), (e), and 668.61. (Refer to the Federal Student Aid Compilation of Regulations for specific amendment and effective dates for sections listed above.)

QA Program institutions *are* still expected to immediately correct any regulatory violation(s), resolve conflicting data, adjust awards, and assist in the recovery of Title IV overpayments identified in the institution's aid population. Additionally, the institution must withhold the disbursement of any Federal Title IV funds from a student required to complete institutional verification who fails to provide the institution with the required documentation.

Federal Student Aid Assurances

During the period that this Amendment is effective, Federal Student Aid will **not**:

- publish or release to the general public any institution-specific data, unless required by law. Reports available for public dissemination will present only aggregate-level data which cannot be disaggregated in institutionally identifiable ways.

Institutions participating in the QA Program will receive training, technical assistance and technical support from the QA Program staff for all activities related to its participation in the QA Program.

The Department of Education's School Participation Teams are responsible for all eligibility and oversight functions for institutions participating in the Title IV programs to determine an institution's overall compliance with Title IV regulations. These oversight functions include recertification, audit resolution, program reviews, and financial statement analysis. Institutions participating in the QA Program continue to be under the guidance of their appropriate regional School Participation Team, a component of the School Eligibility Channel within the office of Federal Student Aid.

Removal from the Program

The Secretary is authorized to remove an Institution from the QA Program if it is determined that the institution:

- has demonstrated that it is unable to administer or to fulfill its commitments to the QA Program. If the Secretary terminates an institution's participation, the Secretary will notify the Institution in writing of the decision to terminate.

Withdrawal from the Program by the Institution

If under its own initiative or by mutual agreement within the office of Federal Student Aid, an institution exercises its option to cease its participation in the QA Program, the institution must notify the Director of the QA Program in writing of its intent to withdraw from the QA Program. This notification should include the reason(s) for withdrawal.

Once an institution withdraws or is terminated from participation in the QA Program, it is no longer entitled to any regulatory exemptions or waivers bestowed by being a participant in the QA Program. The Institution must comply with all reporting requirements of the current award year (defined as the award year during which the participating institution indicates its intention to cease participation) under the conditions of the QA Program.

Duration of Agreement

Unless the Institution is removed or withdraws from the Program as specified above, this Amendment to the PPA will remain in effect until the Secretary issues a new Amendment. The Institution specifically acknowledges and agrees that the Secretary may issue a new PPA Amendment at any time, and that the Institution will be required to execute the new PPA Amendment in order to continue to participate in the QA Program.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF

The parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.

Institutional President, Chancellor, or Chief Administrative Officer:

Signature Date: _____

Print or Type Name

Voice Phone: _____ Fax Phone: _____

Financial Aid Administrator

Signature Date: _____

Print or Type Name

Voice Phone: _____ Fax Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Date: _____
For the Secretary, U.S. Department of Education

Print Name and Title