Federal Register – September 2024

Federal Need Analysis Methodology for the 2025-26 Award Year-Federal Pell Grant, Federal Work-Study, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan, and TEACH Grant Programs, 89 Federal Register 71261, September 3, 2024 **NOTICE**: The Secretary announces the annual updates to the tables used in the statutory Federal Need Analysis Methodology (Need Analysis) that determines a student's Student Aid Index (SAI) for award year (AY) 2025-26 for student financial aid programs.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)
Information To Be Verified for the 2025-2026 Award
Year, , 89 Federal Register 71893, September 4, 2024

NOTICE: For each award year, the Secretary publishes in the Federal Register a notice announcing the FAFSA information that an institution and an applicant may be required to verify, as well as the acceptable documentation for verifying FAFSA information.

<u>Public Health Service Policies on Research Misconduct, 89</u> <u>Federal Register 76280, September 17, 2024</u> **FINAL RULE**: This final rule revises the regulations governing Public Health Service Policies on Research Misconduct. The final rule reflects both substantive and non-substantive revisions in response to public comments and to improve clarity. The purpose of the final rule is to implement policy changes and respond to technological changes that occurred over the past several years applicable to research misconduct.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2025 **APPLICABLE DATE**: January 1, 2026

NASA Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, 89 Federal Register 75947, September 17, 2024 **DIRECT FINAL RULE**: This direct final rule amends NASA's regulations on Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, to align with the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) April 2024 revisions to its guidance on grants and cooperative agreements, now titled "OMB Guidance for Federal Financial Assistance."

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024 **COMMENTS DUE**: October 17, 2024

2024-2025 Award Year Deadline Dates for Reports and Other Records Associated With the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program (FSEOG) Program, the Federal Work-Study (FWS) Program, the Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant) Program, the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program, and the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program, 89 Federal Register 76459, September 18, 2024

NOTICE: The Secretary announces deadline dates for the receipt of documents and other information from applicants and institutions participating in certain Federal student aid programs authorized under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), for the 2024-2025 award year. These programs, administered by the Department of Education (Department), provide financial assistance to students attending eligible postsecondary educational institutions to help them pay their educational costs. The Federal student aid programs (title IV, HEA programs) covered by this deadline date notice are the Pell Grant, Direct Loan, TEACH Grant, and Campus-Based (FSEOG and FWS) programs.

SEE ENTRY FOR DEADLINE AND SUBMISSION DATES

Rules Governing Motion To Amend Practice and Procedures in Trial Proceedings Under the America Invents Act Before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board, 89 Federal Register 76421, September 18, 2024

FINAL RULE: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (Office or USPTO) modifies its rules of practice governing amendment practice in trial proceedings under the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (AIA) to make permanent certain provisions of the Office's motion to amend pilot program (MTA pilot program) and to revise the rules that allocate burdens of persuasion in connection with motions to amend (MTAs). These

IRS, HHS, EBSA Requirements Related to the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act, 89 Federal Register 76421, September 23, 2024

rules provide a patent owner with the option of issuance of preliminary guidance in response to an MTA and the option of filing one additional revised MTA. Further, these rules clarify that a preponderance of evidence standard applies to any new ground of unpatentability raised by the Board, and that when exercising the discretion to grant or deny an MTA or to raise a new ground of unpatentability, the Board may consider all evidence of record in the proceeding. The rules further provide that the Board may consider information identified in response to a Board-initiated request for examination assistance, and that the results of that assistance will be added to the record. The rules better ensure the Office's role of issuing robust and reliable patents, and the predictability and certainty of post-grant trial proceedings before the Board. These rules relate to the Office trial practice for inter partes review (IPR), post-grant review (PGR), and derivation proceedings that implemented provisions of the AIA providing for trials before the Office.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 18, 2024

FINAL RULE: This document sets forth final rules amending regulations implementing the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 (MHPAEA) and adding new regulations implementing the nonquantitative treatment limitation (NQTL) comparative analyses requirements under MHPAEA, as amended by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (CAA, 2021). Specifically, these final rules amend the existing NQTL standard to prohibit group health plans and health insurance issuers offering group or individual health insurance coverage from using NQTLs that place greater restrictions on access to mental health and substance use disorder benefits as compared to medical/surgical benefits. As part of these changes, these final rules require plans and issuers to collect and evaluate relevant data in a manner reasonably designed to assess the impact of NQTLs on relevant outcomes related to access to mental health and substance use disorder benefits and medical/surgical benefits and to take reasonable action, as necessary, to address material differences in access to mental health or substance use disorder benefits as compared to medical/surgical benefits. These final rules also amend existing examples and add new examples on the application of the rules for NQTLs to clarify and illustrate the requirements of MHPAEA. Additionally, these final rules set forth the content requirements for NQTL comparative analyses and specify how plans and issuers must make these comparative analyses available to the Department of the Treasury (Treasury), the Department of Labor (DOL), and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) (collectively, the Departments), as well as to an applicable State authority, and to participants, beneficiaries, and enrollees. Finally, HHS finalizes regulatory amendments to implement the sunset provision for self-funded non-Federal governmental plan elections to opt out of compliance with MHPAEA, as adopted in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (CAA, 2023).

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 22, 2024

Virginia Register – September 2024

8VAC20-23. Licensure Regulations for School Personnel (amending 8VAC20-23-10, 8VAC20-23-40, 8VAC20-23-50, 8VAC20-23-90 through 8VAC20-23-120, 8VAC20-23-140 through 8VAC20-23-180, 8VAC20-23-200 through 8VAC20-23-710).

8VAC20-543. Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia (amending 8VAC20-543-10, 8VAC20-543-20, 8VAC20-543-60, 8VAC20-543-70, 8VAC20-543-80, 8VAC20-543-620, 8VAC20-543-630)

Virginia Register of Regulations, Volume 41, Issue 2, September 9, 2024

REGULATION: The amendments align Virginia regulations with changes in federal regulations. Those changes, effective July 1, 2020, no longer categorize accrediting agencies as "regional" or "national," but instead include them under the umbrella terms "institutional" or "nationally recognized."