



FINAL RESULTS

FAFSA Simplification Survey at Independent Colleges and Universities

September 16, 2009

Introduction

NAICU conducted a survey of private colleges on several proposed changes to the federal student aid application process as well as a conversion to Direct Lending. Congressional leaders asked us to survey financial aid officers about their impressions of the changes to FAFSA under consideration, and any federal supports to colleges that might be needed should Direct Lending become mandated. The comments on Direct Lending were categorized and consolidated to 9 pages from a total of 23 pages of comments.

I. General Survey Information

The survey began collecting data on Friday, August 28, 2009. The following findings are preliminary results as of midnight, Wednesday, September 15, 2009. NAICU received 486 completed surveys, a 51% response rate.

II. Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Questions

Q5. Which best describes the method your institution uses to award institutional aid?	Number	Percent
We only use FAFSA.	296	62.2
We primarily use the FAFSA but collect additional information directly from the students.	119	25.0
We do not use the FAFSA but use a fee-based or third party form.	61	12.8
Total	476	100.0

NOTE:

*****Those institutions responding that they already use a fee-based or third party form in Question #5 (61 institutions) were instructed to skip Question #6a/6b/6c, and proceed directly to Question #7. The remaining survey questions on the FAFSA were only answered by institutions that currently do not use a third party form.***

Q6a. If asset questions were removed from the FAFSA, our institution would most likely:	Number	Percent
Continue using the FAFSA; knowing this specific information is NOT important to institutional aid determinations.	190	45.2
Not sure if we would continue using the FAFSA for institutional aid determinations; this information is important.	140	33.3
Not use the FAFSA for making institutional aid determinations; we would directly collect this information from the students.	50	11.9
Not use the FAFSA for making institutional aid determinations; we would require additional information through a fee-based or third party form.	39	9.5
Total	409	100.0

Q6b. If child support payments were removed from the FAFSA, our institution would most likely:	Number	Percent
Continue using the FAFSA; knowing this specific information is NOT important to institutional aid determinations.	214	50.8
Not sure if we would continue using the FAFSA for institutional aid determinations; this information is important.	120	28.5
Not use the FAFSA for making institutional aid determinations; we would directly collect this information from the students.	49	11.6
Not use the FAFSA for making institutional aid determinations; we would require additional information through a fee-based or third party form.	38	9.0
Total	421	100.0

Q6c. If asset and child support payment questions were removed from the FAFSA, our institution would most likely:	Number	Percent
Continue using the FAFSA; knowing this specific information is NOT important to institutional aid determinations.	183	43.1
Not sure if we would continue using the FAFSA for institutional aid determinations; this information is important.	144	33.9
Not use the FAFSA for making institutional aid determinations; we would directly collect this information from the students.	55	12.9
Not use the FAFSA for making institutional aid determinations; we would require additional information through a fee-based or third party form.	43	10.1
Total	425	100.0