

Title IV Program Responsibilities and Financial Aid Program Audits

The institution is in compliance with its program responsibilities under Title IV of the most recent *Higher Education Act* as amended. **(Federal Requirement 4.7)** The institution audits financial aid programs as required by federal and state regulations.

(Comprehensive Standard 3.10.2)

Title IV of the Higher Education Act (HEA) governs the federal student financial aid programs. The execution of the [Program Participation Agreement](#) between Mississippi College and the United States Secretary of Education is a prerequisite to the institution's continued participation in any Title IV, HEA Program.

Mississippi College is approved to administer the following Title IV programs: the Federal Pell Grant Program, Academic Competitive Grant, National SMART Grant, TEACH Grant, the Federal Family Education Loan Program, the Direct Student Loan Program, and the federal campus-based programs. The federal campus-based programs that Mississippi College oversees are the Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant Program, the Federal Work-Study Program, and the Federal Perkins Loan Program. The U.S. Department of Education provides information outlining the federal programs. The Department of Education also instructs students on how to apply for these programs. To participate in the campus-based programs, the federal regulations require participating schools to file the Fiscal Operations Report and Application to Participate (FISAP), to report fiscal activities for the prior year and to determine the level of funding for the campus-based programs for the upcoming year.

Mississippi College has no Title IV issues. MC has not been placed on a reimbursement method, has not been required to obtain a letter of credit in favor of the USDOE, has no financial aid complaints filed against it, has no financial aid litigation pending, and has no significant unpaid dollar amounts due back to the USDOE.

At Mississippi College, an undergraduate can receive grants, loans, and work-study. A grant is financial aid that the student does not have to repay. A loan allows the student to borrow money that must be repaid with interest. The Federal work-study program provides jobs for students. Graduate students may only receive loans and work-study assistance.

Mississippi College, by signing the Program Participation Agreement, commits to comply with the following federal laws and regulations: nondiscrimination in all areas protected by the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Family Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975.

The University is eligible to continue to provide financial assistance to students based on its low [Cohort Default Rate](#). This rate considers the number of loans that go into repayment and the number of loans that go into default during this period. Mississippi College has consistently had low default rates. The chart demonstrates MC's consistently low default rates.

School Year	Default Rate
2012	6.1%
2013	5.7%
2014	5.9%
2015	6.3%
2016	7.3%

Source: Default Rate History

Approximately 80 percent of students attending Mississippi College receive some sort of assistance through Title IV funding. The University awarded approximately \$52,000,000 in Title IV aid in the year ending May 31, 2016. Students are required to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid in order to be eligible to receive Title IV aid. The student is given an estimated family contribution number that is based on the information that they provided the Department of Education. Each student is assigned a cost of attendance based on their residency status and their dependency status. The estimated family contribution is subtracted from the cost of attendance, and this is what determines how much financial need a student has. The student is awarded aid based on the amount of need. Students are not automatically awarded PLUS loans. They must request this information from the Financial Aid office. Students are eligible to receive their financial aid as long as they are admitted to the University in a degree-seeking program, have no "c" flag on their federal application, and are making Satisfactory Academic Progress. Mississippi College Financial Aid has policies that address [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#).

A refund policy is published in the undergraduate, graduate, and law catalogs. The refund policies in the catalog are reviewed each year and updated as needed. In addition, The Higher Education Amendments of 1992 require universities participating in federal student aid programs to perform non-federal financial and compliance audits annually.

The accounting firm of Cherry Bekaert performs the yearly audits that includes all financial aid programs. The [audit](#) reported that Mississippi College was in compliance with the requirements applicable to administering the major federal programs. The results of the audit and any findings, if applicable, are presented to and reviewed annually by the Audit Committee of the Board of Trustees. Audits for [FY15](#), [FY16](#), and [FY17](#) are provided.

Financial aid funds disbursed to students are audited and reviewed for compliance with institutional, federal, and state regulations. The University's Internal Auditor periodically reviews policies and procedures in the Financial Aid Office to ensure that institutional requirements are met. Annual audits are conducted by the Cherry Bekaert accounting firm for compliance with federal regulations. The latest audit report, (OMB Circular A-133 Financial Statements with Supplemental Information for the Year ending May 31, 2017 which is included in the audit report as Supplemental Information) indicated that no area was out of compliance. Mississippi College received a report with no findings. The audit states, "In our opinion, the University complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on its major federal program for the year ended May 31, 2017."

The State of Mississippi has designated the Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) to administer the distribution of certain state aid such as the Mississippi Tuition Assistants Grants and the Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grants that is available to some students enrolled in any institution of higher learning in Mississippi including Mississippi College. Independent auditors chosen by the Mississippi State Student Financial Aid Office of IHL conduct a yearly audit of all state aid provided by IHL. At the end of each semester a reconciliation report is filed with IHL. The [2016](#) and [2017](#) reports are provided.