

UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS
SPRINGFIELD

Policy Information

Policy Owner: Enrollment and Retention Management

Responsible Official: Vice Chancellor for Enrollment and Retention Management

Approved by: Chancellor

Originally Approved: 10.25.22

Last Revision Date: 10.25.22

Revision Effective Date: 10.25.22

Targeted Review Date: 10.25.25

Contact: Vickie Cook, Assoc. Vice Chancellor for Enrollment and Online, Professional, and Engaged Learning

Policy name: UIS Student Loan Code of Conduct Policy

Policy Details:

The University of Illinois Springfield has adopted this Student Loan Code of Conduct to serve as the formal guiding principles in ensuring the integrity of the student aid process and ethical conduct of employees in regard to student loan practices. The Student Loan Code of Conduct applies to all employees who work in the Office of Financial Assistance and all other University of Illinois Springfield employees, including agents of the University, who have responsibilities related to educational loans or other forms of student financial aid. The Student Loan Code of Conduct has been established to meet the requirements contained in the 2008 Higher Education Opportunity Act. Items in this Code of Conduct provide additional standards of conduct for employees with responsibility for student financial aid and do not replace any existing or future requirements imposed by the State of Illinois or the University of Illinois Springfield related to codes of conduct, conflict of interest policies, ethics training, or other such requirements. The Student Loan Code of Conduct also confirms that the University of Illinois Springfield does not have preferred lender arrangements of any kind or a preferred lender list.

Revenue Sharing

University of Illinois Springfield shall not enter into any revenue-sharing arrangements with any lender, guarantor or servicer.

Gifts

Employees of the Office of Financial Assistance are prohibited from soliciting or accepting any gift from a lender, guarantor, or servicer of education loans. Gifts include any gratuity, favor, discount, entertainment, hospitality, loan or other item. This includes a gift of services, transportation, lodging,

or meals, whether provided in kind, by purchase of a ticket, payment in advance, or reimbursement after the expense has incurred. Gifts to family members of a University of Illinois Springfield employee are considered to be a gift to the employee if the gift is given with the knowledge and consent of the employee and there is reason to believe the gift was given because of the official position of that employee.

Contracting Arrangements

No UIS officer, employee, or agent employed in the Office of Financial Assistance or otherwise responsible for education loans shall accept from any lender or its affiliate any fee, payment or other financial benefit (including the opportunity to purchase stock) as compensation for any type of consulting arrangement or other contract to provide services to or on behalf of a lender, guarantor, or servicer of education loans.

Preferred Lender Status

The University of Illinois Springfield participates in the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program, which provides student and parent loans through the U.S. Department of Education. Lenders in the private student loan industry will not be given a preferred status. The University of Illinois Springfield does not have any preferred lender arrangements that give any lender an advantage in securing business from its students. The University of Illinois Springfield does not provide students a preferred lender list from which to select a lender for a private student loan. All loans are processed without regard to lender or mode of transmission (i.e., electronic or paper). The University of Illinois Springfield

will neither recommend a private loan lender nor accept material benefits including revenue or profit sharing to the institution, an officer, or an employee of the institution or an agent.

Private Loan Certification

The University of Illinois Springfield will not assign a borrower's private student loan to a particular lender; all decisions will be made by the borrower in his/her independent review of borrower benefits and lender services. The University of Illinois Springfield will not refuse to certify, or delay certification of, any loan based on the borrower's selection of a particular lender or guaranty agency.

Opportunity Pool Loan

The University of Illinois Springfield will not request or accept from any lender any offer of funds to be used for private education loans (as defined in section 140 of the Truth in Lending Act), including funds for an opportunity pool loan to students in exchange for the University of Illinois Springfield providing concessions or promises regarding providing the lender with (i) a specified number of federal loans made, insured or guaranteed; (ii) a specified federal loan volume; or (iii) a preferred lender arrangement for such loans.

Staffing Assistance

The University of Illinois Springfield will not request or accept from any lender, guarantor, or servicer of student loans any assistance with call center staffing or financial aid office staffing.

Advisory Board Compensation

Employees of the Office of Financial Assistance serving on an advisory board, commission, or group established by a lender, guarantor, or group of lenders or guarantors, are prohibited from receiving anything of value from the lender, guarantor, or group of lenders or guarantors, except that the employee may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in serving on such advisory board, commission, or group.

Other Conflicts of Interest

UIS has a Conflicts of Interest Policy that requires University employees to either refrain from or disclose their involvement in matters where any conflict or appearance of conflict between personal and University interests exists. In addition to this Conflicts of Interest Policy, all UIS officers, employees, and agents employed in the Office of Financial Assistance or otherwise responsible for education loans are prohibited from having any conflicts of interest with respect to their responsibilities for Title IV education loans.

In addition to the items above, as a member of the National Association of Student Financial Assistance Administrators (NASFAA), UIS also follows the standards established in NASFAA's Statement of Ethical Principles and Code of Conduct for Institutional Financial Assistance Professionals.

Date approval recommended by Chancellor's Cabinet: 10/25/2022

Date approved by Chancellor: 10/25/2022

Chancellor signature: 

Effective date: Fall 2023 Semester