

acquisition of space programs from their initiation to deployment.

The mission of the Defense Science Board is to advise the Secretary of Defense and the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology & Logistics on scientific and technical matters as they affect the perceived needs of the Department of Defense. At these meetings, the Task Force will focus on what matters to providing national security advantage to the United States and look at the problem in as holistic a fashion as possible, considering the entire space acquisition process, including industry suppliers as well as government acquirers. The assessment will consider what is happening in the four interconnected sectors of the space business—commercial, civil, intelligence and military. Personnel issues, including numbers, skills, experience and demographics of space professionals (including CAAS and FFRDC personnel) as well as effects of corporate mergers in all these areas may be included. The assessment will also consider all aspects of the government's role in managing and funding space system acquisition—SPO, PEO, Science and Technology, Major Command, Service Headquarters, OSD, NRO, NASA and Congress—to derive insights.

In accordance with section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Pub. L. 92-463, as amended (5 U.S.C. App. II), it has been determined that these Task Force meetings concern matters listed in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(1) and that, accordingly, these meetings will be closed to the public.

Due to critical mission requirements, there was insufficient time to provide timely notice of the October 3-4, 2002, meeting required by section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act and subsection 101-6.1015(b) of the GSA Final Rule on Federal Advisory Committee Management, 41 CFR part 101-6, which further requires publication at least 15 calendar days prior to the first meeting of the Task Force on the Acquisition of National Security Space Programs.

Dated: September 25, 2002.

Patricia L. Toppings,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

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BILLING CODE 5001-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before December 2, 2002.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, *e.g.* new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment.

The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: September 25, 2002.

John D. Tressler,

Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Federal Student Aid

Type of Review: Revision.

Title: William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program Statutory Forbearance Forms.

Frequency: On Occasion.

Affected Public: Individuals or household.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 4,092.

Burden Hours: 818.

Abstract: Borrowers who receive loans through the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program will use this form to agree to statutory forbearances on their loans.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, by selecting the "Browse Pending Collections" link and by clicking on link number 2167. When you access the information collection, click on "Download Attachments" to view. Written requests for information should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651 or to the e-mail address vivian_reese@ed.gov. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the e-mail address OCIO_RIMG@ed.gov or faxed to 202-708-9346. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Joseph Schubart at his e-mail address Joe.Schubart@ed.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA NO. 84.200A]

Office of Postsecondary Education; Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) Program; Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2003

Purpose of Program: GAANN provides fellowships in areas of national need to assist graduate students with excellent academic records who demonstrate financial need and plan to pursue the highest degree available in their course of study.

Eligible Applicants: Academic departments of institutions of higher education that meet the requirements in 34 CFR 648.2.

Applications Available: October 11, 2002.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: November 22, 2002.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: January 22, 2003.

Estimated Available Funds: The Administration has requested \$31,000,000 for this program for FY 2003. The actual level of funding, if any, depends on final congressional action. However, we are inviting applications to allow enough time to complete the grant process, if Congress appropriates funds for this program.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$145,184–\$750,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$219,354.

Estimated Number of Awards: 69.

Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: GAANN Stipend Level: The Secretary will determine the GAANN fellowship stipend for the academic year 2003–2004 based on the level of support provided by the National Science Foundation (NSF) graduate fellowships as of February 1, 2003, except that the amount will be adjusted as necessary so as not to exceed the GAANN fellow's demonstrated level of financial need.

GAANN Institutional Payment: The Secretary will determine the institutional payment for the academic year 2003–2004 by adjusting the previous academic year institutional payment, which was calculated to be \$11,031 per fellow, by the U.S. Department of Labor's Consumer Price Index for the 2002 calendar year.

Project Period: Up to 36 months.

Page Limit: The application narrative (Part III of the application) is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. You must limit Part III to the equivalent of no more than 35 pages, using the following standards:

- A "page" is 8.5" x 11", on one side only, with 1" margins at the top, bottom, and both sides.

- Double space (no more than three lines per vertical inch) all text in the application narrative, including titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, references, and captions. However, you may single space all text in charts, tables, figures, and graphs.

- Use a font that is either 12-point or larger or no smaller than 10 pitch (character per inch).

The page limit does not apply to Part I, the cover sheet; Part II, the budget section, including the narrative budget justification; the assurances and certifications; or the one-page abstract, the resumes, the bibliography, or the letters of support. However, you must include all of the application narrative in Part III.

We will reject your application if—

- You apply these standards and exceed the page limit; or
- You apply other standards and exceed the equivalent of the page limit.

Note: Multi-disciplinary applications must abide by the page limits for each academic discipline for which fellowships are requested.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 82, 85, 86, 97, 98, and 99; and (b) The regulations for this program in 34 CFR part 648.

Priority: Absolute Priority: This competition focuses on projects designed to meet a priority in the regulations for this program (34 CFR 648.33).

Areas of National Need: A project must provide fellowships in one or more of the following areas of national need: Biology, chemistry, computer and information sciences, engineering, geological and related sciences, mathematics, and physics.

Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) we consider only applications that meet the priority.

Instructions for Transmittal of Applications: **Note:** Some of the procedures in these instructions for transmitting applications differ from those in the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) 34 CFR 75.102. Under the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553) the Department generally offers interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed regulations. However, these amendments make procedural changes only and do not establish new substantive policy. Therefore, under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(A), the Secretary has determined that proposed rulemaking is not required.

Pilot Project for Electronic Submission of Applications

In FY 2003, the U.S. Department of Education is continuing to expand its pilot project of electronic submission of applications to include additional formula grant programs and additional discretionary grant competitions. The GAANN Program—CFDA No. 84.200A is one of the programs included in the pilot project. If you are an applicant under the GAANN Program, you may submit your application to us in either electronic or paper format.

The pilot project involves the use of the Electronic Grant Application System (e-APPLICATION, formerly e-GAPS) portion of the Grant Administration and Payment System (GAPS). We request your participation in this pilot project.

We shall continue to evaluate its success and solicit suggestions for improvement.

If you participate in this e-APPLICATION pilot, please note the following:

- Your participation is voluntary.
- You will not receive any additional point value or penalty because you submit a grant application in electronic or paper format.
- You can submit all documents electronically, including the Application for Federal Assistance (ED 424), Budget Information Non-Construction Programs (ED 524), and all necessary assurances and certifications.

- Within three working days of submitting your electronic application, fax a signed copy of the Application for Federal Assistance (ED 424) to the Application Control Center after following these steps:

1. Print ED 424 from the e-APPLICATION system.
 2. Make sure that the institution's Authorizing Representative signs this form.
 3. Before faxing this form, submit your electronic application via the e-APPLICATION system. You will receive an automatic acknowledgement, which will include a PR/Award number (an identifying number unique to your application).
 4. Place the PR/Award number in the upper right hand corner of ED 424.
 5. Fax ED 424 to the Application Control Center at (202) 260–1349.
- We may request that you give us original signatures on all other forms at a later date.

You may access the electronic grant application for the GAANN Program at: <http://e-grants.ed.gov>.

We have included additional information about the e-APPLICATION pilot project (see Parity Guidelines between Paper and Electronic Applications) in the application package.

Note: Please note that due to the Department's end of the fiscal year close out activities, the e-APPLICATION system will be unavailable on October 1. It will become available for users again on Wednesday, October 2.

For Applications and Further Information Contact: Brandy A. Silverman, U.S. Department of Education, International Education and Graduate Programs Service, 1990 K Street, NW., 6th Floor, Washington, DC 20006–8521. Telephone: (202) 502–7886 or via Internet: ope_gaann_program@ed.gov.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call

the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the program contact person listed under **FOR APPLICATIONS AND FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain a copy of the application package in an alternative format by contacting that person. However, the Department is not able to reproduce in an alternative format the standard forms included in the application package.

Electronic Access to This Document

You may view this document, as well as all other Department of Education documents published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at the following site: www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister.

To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at this site. If you have questions about using PDF, call the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) toll free, at 1-888-293-6498; or in the Washington, DC area, at (202) 512-1530.

Note: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. Free Internet access to the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations is available on GPO Access at: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/index.html>.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1135.

Dated: September 26, 2002.

Sally L. Stroup,

Assistant Secretary, Office of Postsecondary Education.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Recognition of Accrediting Agencies, State Agencies for the Approval of Public Postsecondary Vocational Education, and State Agencies for the Approval of Nurse Education

AGENCY: National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity, Department of Education (The Advisory Committee).

What Is the Purpose of This Notice?

On July 24, 2002, we published a notice in the **Federal Register** to invite written comments on accrediting agencies that had submitted petitions for review by the Advisory Committee at its December 2-4, 2002 meeting. The National Accrediting Commission of

Cosmetology Arts and Sciences was omitted from the list of accrediting agencies in our July 24, 2002 notice. This notice invites written comments on the petition for expansion of scope submitted by the National Accrediting Commission of Cosmetology Arts and Sciences that will be reviewed at the Advisory Committee meeting to be held on December 2-4, 2002.

Petition for an Expansion of Scope

1. National Accrediting Commission of Cosmetology Arts and Sciences (Current scope of recognition: the accreditation of postsecondary schools and departments of cosmetology arts and sciences.) (Requested scope of recognition: the accreditation throughout the United States of postsecondary schools and departments of cosmetology arts and sciences and massage therapy.)

Where Should I Submit My Comments?

Please submit your written comments by October 18, 2002 to Carol Griffiths, Chief, Accrediting Agency Evaluation, Accreditation and State Liaison. You may contact her at the U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, NW., 7th Floor, Room 7105, Washington, DC 20006-8509, telephone: (202) 219-7011. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

What Is the Authority for the Advisory Committee?

The National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity is established under Section 114 of the Higher Education Act (HEA), as amended, 20 U.S.C. 1011c. One of the purposes of the Advisory Committee is to advise the Secretary of Education on the recognition of accrediting agencies and State approval agencies.

Will This Be My Only Opportunity To Submit Written Comments?

Yes, this notice announces the only opportunity you will have to submit written comments. However, another **Federal Register** notice will announce the meeting and invite individuals and/or groups to submit requests to make oral presentations before the Advisory Committee on the agencies that the Committee will review. That notice, however, does not offer an opportunity to submit written comment.

What Happens to the Comments That I Submit?

We will review your comments, in response to this notice, as part of our evaluation of the National Accrediting

Commission of Cosmetology Arts and Sciences' compliance with the Secretary's Criteria for Recognition of Accrediting Agencies. The Criteria are regulations found in 34 CFR part 602 (for accrediting agencies).

We will also respond to your comments, as appropriate, in the staff analysis we present to the Advisory Committee at its December 2002 meeting. Therefore, in order for us to give full consideration to your comments, it is important that we receive them by October 18, 2002. In all instances, your comments regarding the National Accrediting Commission of Cosmetology Arts and Sciences must relate to the Criteria for Recognition.

What Happens to Comments Received After the Deadline?

We will review any comments received after the deadline. If such comments, upon investigation, reveal that the accrediting agency is not acting in accordance with the Criteria for Recognition, we will take action either before or after the meeting, as appropriate.

Where Can I Inspect Petitions and Third-Party Comments Before and After the Meeting?

Subject to the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, petitions, interim reports, and those third-party comments received in advance of the meeting, will, upon written request, be made available, by appointment, for inspection and copying at the U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, NW., 7th Floor, Room 7105, Washington, DC 20006-8509, telephone (202) 219-7011 until October 18, 2002. They will be available again after the December 2-4 Advisory Committee meeting.

How May I Obtain Electronic Access to This Document?

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