Gainful Employment Requirement

The U.S. Department of Education’s gainful employment regulations require disclosure of certain program information to students and prospective students in order to maintain federal financial aid eligibility for students enrolled in “gainful employment” (GE) programs.

Institutions must prominently provide a direct link from the home page of the GE Program website to the program’s disclosure page. Any other web page containing general, academic or admissions information about the GE program must contain a prominent and direct link to the program’s web home page or to the GE disclosure page.

Definition of a Gainful Employment Program for Reporting Purposes

Gainful employment programs are those “that prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation.” Public institutions are required to report on all undergraduate and graduate programs that are Title IV eligible and that lead to certificates, diplomas, or graduate certificates. Reporting is not required for undergraduate certificates and diplomas less than 16 credits or for graduate certificates that are less than 8 credits. Degree programs at all levels are not considered to be gainful employment programs at public colleges and universities. Based on specific guidance from the U.S. Department of Education, the Specialist Degrees at state universities are not considered to be gainful employment programs and are excluded from the disclosure requirements.

Required Report Format

Effective January 31, 2014 all Title IV postsecondary institutions and eligible programs must use a Gainful Employment Disclosure Template (GEDT) developed by the USDE to create a web page containing the required disclosure information. Changes to the html or format of the report are not permissible. Information about the template released on January 19, 2018 is available at:


Required Information for each Gainful Employment Program

The 2018 template does not require the disclosure of the cost of room and board or the median earnings of recent graduates. The following information is included in each disclosure:

- **On-time completion rate** of Title IV students entering a program (based on the student’s original term of enrollment in the major, adjusted for any previous non-GE awards), defined in the regulations as the number of entering students who completed the program within 100% of normal (published) time

- **Program costs** including in-state tuition and fees (based on current FY Board of Trustees approved rates and the total program credits reported in the system program inventory), out-of-state tuition and fees, and book and supply costs (based on data reported to IPEDS)
• **Rate of borrowing** among students during the most recent fiscal year (based on student majors and ISRS financial aid loan disbursement data)

• **Median loan debt and estimated payment** for graduates (reported median loan debt information is based on ISRS financial aid loan disbursement data; the applicable interest rate and amortization is provided by USDE)

• **Job placement rate** for recent graduates (based on system or state standards)

• **Links to profiles of occupations** that the program prepares students to enter (SOC codes linked to O*NET job descriptions)

• **Licensure Requirements** in states within the Metropolitan Statistical Areas of the college or university (provided by campus staff)

**Report Footnote**

To help clarify the information included in the disclosure report, the following language is added as a note:

(1) Actual costs will vary depending upon the specific program and courses taken. (2) It is expected that students who attend part time, begin in the spring rather than fall semester, pursue multiple programs/majors, or change their program/major will take longer to complete the program than the length indicated. (3) In addition to specific state licensure requirements, there may be other certification exams that a student would be prepared to take, but that are not required for employment. Program staff at the institution can provide more information.

If an institution offer on campus housing, the following language is added:

(4) On campus housing is optional; availability is not guaranteed.