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University of Washington (UW)

Agency: 360

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**Audit Report:** 2011 F

**Finding Number:** 012

**Finding:** The University of Washington did not comply with the eligibility requirements of federal student financial aid programs.

**Resolution:** The University's School of Social Work has strengthened its internal control structure. Duties have been segregated so that the assistant dean for Student Affairs, who had complete control of the independent study process, no longer approves independent study course proposals. The directors of the Masters of Social Work and the Bachelor of Social Work Programs now approve all independent study course proposals. To ensure compliance with this policy, two steps are in place. First, on day 10 of each quarter, the files of all students enrolled in independent study courses are reviewed to ensure that the independent study course proposals are properly documented and approved. Second, periodic checks are conducted by the associate dean for Academic Affairs on a sample of students enrolled in independent study courses to ensure that proposals are properly documented and approved.

The University currently provides guidance to students regarding their eligibility for student financial aid via a number of communication mechanisms including secure websites with individual student eligibility information; written, verbal, and email communication from financial aid counselors; and printed publications and websites relating to general financial aid information. In the future, typically at the beginning of the Fall quarter, alerts will be sent to undergraduate and graduate academic department advisors directing them to University policies regarding financial aid eligibility. These alerts will also serve to remind them that they should direct students who have questions or concerns about financial aid to the Office of Student Financial Aid.

On March 9, 2012, the University received the final program review determination letter from the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) for the questioned costs related to the Pell Grant Program. The total amount of repayment that they requested is \$10,669 (which is the amount of overpayment plus interest). Payment was sent to DOE on April 17, 2012.

On March 9, 2012, the University received the final program review determination letter from (DOE) for the Federal Direct Student Loan Program. The total amount of repayment that they requested is \$9,531. This figure takes into consideration the amount of loans improperly awarded (\$102,418), the expected repayment amount of the loans to be received from students after applying the institutional default rate and accrued interest. Payment was sent to DOE on April 17, 2012.

The University sent a check to the Department of Social and Health Services on February 14, 2012, in the amount of \$13,562 to repay the questioned costs on the Foster Care Title IV-E grant.

State of Washington

**Status of Resolution of Audit Findings**

December 2012

**Agency Contact:**

Jeff Follman  
University of Washington  
Box 351120  
Seattle WA 98195-1120  
(206) 543-3708  
jfollman@u.washington.edu