

U of L Gainful Employment Policy

In June 2011, the Obama administration released final regulations requiring career college and other vocational programs to better prepare students for “gainful employment” or risk losing access to Federal student aid. The final guidelines were released in 2014 after legal action was taken. These regulations are designed to protect students and their families from exploitative programs. To qualify for Federal aid, the law requires that most for-profit programs and certificate programs at nonprofit and public institutions prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation.

<http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/obama-administration-takes-action-protect-americans-predatory-poor-performing-ca>

The University of Louisville reviewed all existing stand-alone certificates against the direct and indirect costs of gainful employment reporting requirements. It was recommended due to the burdensome reporting requirements, lack of significant impact to UofL's students, and strict sanctions on programs to declare all certificate programs as being ineligible for federal aid and exempt from gainful employment reporting. This ruling will apply unless an explicit justification is provided by the academic unit as to why it must be a stand-alone program (for financial aid purposes). **Students accepted into certificate programs not certified for financial aid MUST ALSO be enrolled in a degree-seeking program to receive aid. Only students with dual enrollment in a degree program (undergraduate or graduate/professional level) and the certificate would be eligible for financial aid.**

For additional information about financial aid, go to: <http://louisville.edu/financialaid/our-services>