

# Understanding Student Aid & the Federal Budget

## Getting Involved in NASFAA

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Dan Mann, NASFAA National Chair  
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

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## Getting Involved in NASFAA Advocacy

### advocacy:

the act or process of supporting a cause or proposal :  
the act or process of advocating something

### advocate:

a person who argues for or supports a cause or  
policy



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## First Amendment Roots



“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or **abridging the freedom of speech**, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to **petition the government for a redress of grievances.**”



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# Understanding Student Aid & the Federal Budget

## Why does advocacy matter?

- With Congress consistently caught in gridlock, it's more important than ever to make sure your voice is heard in policy debates, especially on issues that could affect you on a daily basis.
- Members of Congress and their staff are most interested in the day-to-day concerns of their constituents in their state or district.

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## Advocacy Basics

- Advocacy is not always lobbying, but lobbying is always advocacy.
- You don't need to be in Washington, D.C. to be an effective advocate.
- Advocacy can and should be **proactive** and **reactive**.
- Effective advocacy uses data, research, and stories.

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## Advocacy Tips and Tricks

1. Know your topic.
2. Keep it local.
3. Keep it personal to you and your institution.
4. Understand the position of the Member of Congress you're meeting with.
5. Keep it factual. If you don't know the answer, just say so!
6. Always follow-up.

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# Understanding Student Aid & the Federal Budget

## NASFAA and Advocacy



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## What does NASFAA do?

- Organizes Advocacy Pipelines
- Distributes Original Research from NASFAA Task Force and Working Group Reports and Papers
- Advocates for NASFAA members with Congress, Administration, and Department of Education
- Participates in Coalition Groups and Associations
- Holds Briefings for Congressional Staff on Student Aid Issues

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## What do we advocate?

### Our advocacy efforts center around these major policy areas:

- Increasing access to higher education, including early awareness and outreach
- Simplifying student aid systems
- Encouraging college persistence & completion
- Promoting college savings and financial education
- Minimizing student indebtedness and emphasizing grant and work aid
- Supporting the primacy of need-based aid

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# Understanding Student Aid & the Federal Budget

## NASFAA's Advocacy Audience

- Administration
  - Department of Education
  - Office of Management and Budget
- Congress
  - House & Senate Education Committees
  - House & Senate Appropriations Committees
  - House & Senate Budget Committees
- Other Higher Education Associations & Organizations

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## Congressional Overview



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## Washington Political Climate

- Gridlock with minor issues disrupting entire process
- Partisanship
- Deficit Reduction
- Budget Politics Dictating Policy
- 2016 Election!

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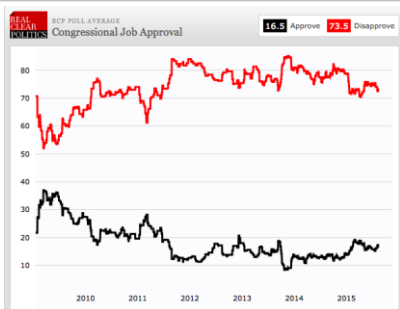
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# Understanding Student Aid & the Federal Budget

## Congressional Approval Numbers



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## "Management by Crisis" in Congress

Before the end of the year, Congress will face some major and incredibly divisive policy debates:

- Passing a Continuing Resolution/Budget Deal to Avoid a Government Shutdown
- Raising the Debt Ceiling
- Iran, Export-Import Bank, Federal Aviation Administration Authorization, Highway/Transit Funding, Child Nutrition, Pipeline Safety, Planned Parenthood



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## Advocacy and You: What Can You Do?

- Volunteer!
  - Advocacy Pipeline
  - Task Force or Working Group
- Write and Visit Your Member of Congress
  - Share your advocacy efforts with NASFAA, so we can support and assist you in your efforts.
- Stay Informed on What's Happening
  - Read NASFAA's *Today's News* and Policy and Advocacy Webpages on nasfaa.org



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# Understanding Student Aid & the Federal Budget

## Task Forces and Working Groups

- 7/15-3/16 National Conference Program
- 7/15-3/16 Enrollment Management
- 7/15-3/16 Leadership Conference & Expo
- 6/14-7/16 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- 8/15-7/16 Consumer Info & Law Student Debt
- 8/15-10/15 Dynamic Loan Limits
- 10/15-3/17 PPY Implementation
- 10/15-3/16 One Grant/One Loan
- 8/15-1/16 Lack of Graduate Specific Data
- 9/15-6/16 Policy Rapid Response Network



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## www.nasfaa.org/volunteer\_information

**About NASFAA**

**JOIN NASFAA**

GET INVOLVED in:  
[Volunteer Opportunities on Homepages & E-news](#)

**ETHICS & VALUES**

**GOVERNANCE**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**LEADERSHIP**

**AWARDS**

**CORPORATE OPPORTUNITIES**

**DALLAS MARTIN ENDOWMENT FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND STUDENT AID**

**PRESS**

**NASFAA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY**

**MEET NASFAA'S MVPs**

**CONTACT US**

**HELP**

ADD TO FAVORITES

### Volunteer Information

NASFAA offers many ways to get involved with your national association, including membership on our volunteer committees and task forces. These groups report to the National Chair and are established to help the association meet its organizational goals. All committee/task force activities are subject to approval by the National Chair, Board of Directors, and/or President.

NASFAA's task force and committee structure varies from year-to-year, depending upon the needs of the association. Currently NASFAA offers Task Force and Board Committee volunteer opportunities.

**Task Forces**

The majority of volunteer opportunities open to the membership take the form of topical Task Forces. These groups are convened as needed, for the amount of time needed to accomplish a specific goal or goals, as outlined in the Task Force charter (see additional information about volunteering for NASFAA in the Committee and Task Force Handbook). Task Force opportunities are made available to members through Today's News. Opportunities currently open, currently filled, or planned for are as follows:

Group	Start Date	End Date	Status
<b>Current</b>			
Examining One Grant/One Loan Task Force	8/15	3/16	Volunteer window closed, selection in progress
Examining the Lack of Graduate-Specific Data Task Force	8/15	1/16	Volunteer window closed, selection in progress
Policy Rapid Response Network Task Force (PPR)	9/15	6/16	Volunteer window closed, selection in progress
	10/15	3/17	Volunteer window closed.



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## Getting Involved in NASFAA Training

The National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) provides professional development for financial aid administrators;



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# Understanding Student Aid & the Federal Budget

## Present in NASFAA Webinars

### Live Webinars



Register for an upcoming webinar and get access to the live event, plus continued access to an On Demand version of the session and all course materials, for up to five months following the original broadcast. Webinars cover a variety of topics, and last from 90 to 120 minutes.

Please register by the published deadline to participate in a live event (even if you've already purchased a Webinar Package). Missed the deadline? Just watch it on demand!

#### 2015-2016 Webinars

**June 22, 2015** - The following topics are scheduled for 2015-2016. Please note that they are subject to change; be sure to return in the coming months for more information. Each webinar is \$120 for members, and \$240 for non-members. Webinar Package purchasers...

#### Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeals

**September 30, 2015** - This webinar will examine options for appealing a SAP determination, and how schools can use the appeal process to help students re-establish their Title IV eligibility.

#### Washington Update

**October 15, 2015** - Which way is the wind blowing on Capitol Hill? NASFAA President Justin Draeger will provide his insights into the news emanating from Congress and the White House.



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## NASFAA University Instructors

### NASFAA University

**You've Got What it Takes. Now Get What You Deserve!**

Now you can earn professional credentials for your professional development activities! NASFAA University offers a nationally-recognized, consistent, and rigorous program of education in administering the Title IV student financial aid programs. Both new and seasoned financial aid professionals will benefit from a NASFAA University education. See what others have to say, and get started!



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## Present at the NASFAA Conference

[http://www.nasfaa.org/what\\_to\\_expect](http://www.nasfaa.org/what_to_expect)

### The 2016 NASFAA Conference

**July 10 - 13, 2016**

Celebrate NASFAA's 50th Anniversary at the 2016 National Conference in Washington, DC!

- Watch this short video to learn about all the NASFAA National Conference has to offer.
- Need some help justifying your travel to the conference? Check out these materials and tips.



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