



MASFAP March 2024 Communication

Message from MASFAP President

Hey Team MASFAP MVPs,

Hope you're all ready to tackle this year like a bunch of financial aid ninjas!



So, we've got some curveballs coming our way with those FAFSA changes, giving an all new meaning to March Madness! But hey, who doesn't love a good challenge, right? It's like trying to dribble a basketball blindfolded – sure, it sounds crazy, but with some fancy footwork (and maybe a bit of luck), we'll score that financial aid touchdown!

But enough about the challenges, let's talk about the good stuff. There's a buzz of excitement in the air, folks! Our committees are cooking up some seriously cool initiatives to amp up our game and serve our members better than ever. Think of us as the dream team of financial aid – unstoppable and always ready to assist!

And speaking of teamwork, let's keep that collaboration spirit alive and kicking! We've got partners from all corners of campus and the industry rooting for us. It's like we're the Harlem Globetrotters of financial aid – spinning through uncertainty with style and grace.

So let's huddle up, slap some high-fives, and get ready to knock this quarter out of the park! With our powers combined, there's no challenge we can't tackle and no student we can't support.

Game on, MASFAP squad!

Volunteer for a MASFAP Committee

We are still looking for volunteers for our committees. We welcome your participation! Please take a moment to volunteer for one (or a couple) of our committees!

To volunteer, sign in at www.masfap.org, click on Financial Aid Administrator, and select Volunteer.

Save the Date—May 24

Who: All MASFAP Members (registration will be first, come first served)

What: One-day, in-person training

When: May 24, 2024 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Where: Columbia, Missouri

Why: MASFAP's PD Committee is here to support you! With all of the FA changes due to the FAFSA this training will be focused on learning and professional development

Information for April Newsletter

The Communications Committee will be releasing the MASFAP Monitor mid April, and we need your input to make this edition the best yet! Please answer the following: 1) please send any news from within your office including awards, promotions, births, marriages, trips taken, anything you would share with your MASFAP colleagues 2) for our fun getting to know MASFAP page please send a quote answering this question: What is the best advice you have for those new to Financial Aid? Please email responses to Melissa Findley by April 10 at Melissa.Findley@moslf.org – thank you!!

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Announcing Professional Development Training for those newer to Financial Aid

freshman

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beginner, newcomer, person who is starting or new to a job or activity

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The MASFAP PD Committee is super excited to roll out training for those newer to financial aid, we're calling it "Freshman" Fridays. Since freshman are the newer to campus, the PD committee has planned training tailored to teach the basics to those newer to the world of financial aid! We will host these trainings for newer FA staff Fridays in April and May each week 10-11 a.m.! Plus, we will offer a little time for networking too. We are hoping to expand the knowledge of our new members. For financial aid staff coming to at least 5 of our sessions, they will receive a Certificate of Completion from our first Freshman Friday cohort.

Here is an outline of Freshman Friday trainings:

- **April 5: FAFSA:101** – we will walk through the new FAFSA, common questions and next steps for students after the FAFSA so new staff feels more comfortable answering FAFSA questions. Since the FAFSA is new and has had a bumpy rollout, we have lots of tips and tricks and lessons learned since the FAFSA rollout! (Kimberly Meeker, North Central Missouri College, Director of Financial Aid, Michele Logue, UMKC, Associate Director – Student Support Services, Alexandria Miller, MSLF, Program Manager)
- **April 12: Federal and State Aid:101** – we will cover state aid and other statewide resources and federal aid including Pell, Work-study, SEOG, TEACH, HRSA, and federal student loans (Jamie Davis, University of Missouri – Columbia, Associate Director of Operations and Compliance, Erik Anderson, MDHEWD, Director- Financial Assistance, Melissa Findley, MSLF, Executive Director)
- **April 19: Dependency Status:101** – clarifying what is required for a student to be independent. Sometimes it is not as easy as it seems! What documents are needed? This an individualized process and it seems no student situation is the same. The new FAFSA handles homeless and at-risk youth in a new way. We'll think through language and best practices in the words you use when speaking with students who have experienced trauma. (Becca Diskin, Missouri Southern State University, Director of Financial Aid and Anna Zimmerman, UMKC, Manager Financial Wellness Center, Student Support Services)
- **April 26: SAP:101** – an important piece that can stop financial aid for students! On the student service side, you will receive questions from students. Sometimes enrollment advisers and advising can differ and cause problems. Good opportunity for cross-training within the institution! (Charles Mayfield, Northwest Missouri State University, Director of Financial Assistance and Becca Diskin, Missouri Southern State University, Director of Financial Aid)
- **May 3: Verification:101** – Pulling up tax documents, explaining how and what FAOs are looking for. What we know will be different this year. How are schools adjusting to differences? (Jamie Davis, University of Missouri – Columbia, Associate Director of Operations and Compliance and Michele Logue, UMKC, Associate Director – Student Support Services)
- **May 10: Financial Literacy:101** – the basics about credit reporting, budgeting, and filling the gap (Anna Zimmerman, UMKC, Manager Financial Wellness Center, Student Support Services and Hannah Smith, SLU, Assistant Director – New Students)
- **May 17: Loan Repayment:101** – paying back student loans, common questions and resources for borrowers, understanding the loan simulator (Anna Zimmerman, UMKC, Manager Financial Wellness Center, Student Support Services and Will Shaffner, MOHELA, Director of Business Development & Government Relations)
- **May 24: MASFAP PD Day Event in Columbia, no Freshman Friday**
- **May 31: SAI and Customer Service:101** – Understanding the Student Aid Index and how it works and Customer Service (Keri Gilbert, Stephens College, Director of Financial Aid and Charles Mayfield, Northwest Missouri State University, Director of Financial Assistance)

Sessions will recorded and put behind the login of the MASFAP website for future use. Although new FA staff must attend live to be part of our Freshman Friday cohort.

Be on the lookout for registration coming soon!