

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING THE SDS PROGRAM

Question 1: Is our accrediting body recognized by the Secretary of Education?

Answer: Please check the Secretary of Education website at:

<http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation>

Question 2: Can a medical school (or nursing program) apply for funding using only the disadvantaged status information for students in their specific program or does the entire student body have to meet the criteria?

Answer: Use disadvantaged information per each health professions degree program, not for the entire student body.

Question 3: Must we be accredited at the school level?

Answer: The school and the program must be accredited.

Question 4: 15% of graduates must be practicing in primary care, the “Application Review Criteria” states that “30% or more” of graduates must be entering into primary care. Is this correct?

Answer: The Reviewer would count the 30% as a strength which would mean additional points.

Question 5: The budget instructions call for a one-year budget, but also require that we submit with the application one-year budgets for each of the 3 subsequent years of the funding period. Do these instructions apply to the work plan?

Answer: The work plan is for the entire project period.

Question 6: Can SDS grant funds be used to support retention initiatives and/or personnel time or should the funds be used exclusively for student scholarships?

Answer: Funds can only be used exclusively for student scholarships

Question 7: If we applied, for funding for multiple nursing programs can these programs be combined in one application since they are all nursing programs.

Answer: NO, each program has to apply separately.

Question 8: Are two year schools of nursing eligible to apply under the SDS Grant Opportunity?

Answer: YES, if the school meets all the eligibility requirements in the FOA.

Question 9: On page 1 of the FOA, it states that the maximum SDS funds that can be awarded per student is \$30,000. However, on page 13 of the 2015 Student Financial Aid guidelines it states "No student can be awarded over \$15,000 in SDS Funds per year." What is the limit per student?

Answer: The limit for the FY 2016 application is \$30,000. The \$15,000 limit information is from the Guidelines for the 2012-2015 funding period. We will be posting new guidelines for the 2016-2019 funding period.

Question 10: Does the methodology/approach section of the narrative require applicants to propose new collaborations for recruitment and retention.

Answer: The FOA does not require new collaborations but requires applicants to show that they are engaged in recruitment and retention activities and that SDS students are included in those activities. In addition, SDS funds cannot be spent on these activities.

Question 11: Does the "at least 20% of total enrollment (full-timed enrolled) "of the program during the Academic Year refer to program enrollment or college enrollment?

Answer: It is referring to the specific health professions degree program enrollment.

Question 12: What amount do I enter on the SF-424 Form number 18. Estimated Funding (\$)?

Answer: Please enter the amounts for the first year of the grant project.

Question 13: What amounts should I enter under Sections J – Requested Award Amount and Section K- Students Supported of the SDS Program Specific Data Forms?

Answer: Please enter the amount needed for the 1st year of the project in Section J and the number of students for 1st year in Section K.

Question 14: I am at a medical school or dental school, what do enter in Section F – Graduates From Your Program Serving in Primary Care and/or Medically Underserved Communities of the SDS Program Specific Data Forms?

Answer:

- Under the Primary Care Section: For allopathic and osteopathic medicine: use graduate data from AY 2010- 2011. For dentistry, dental hygiene, graduate nursing, physician assistants, and mental and behavioral health practitioners: use graduate data from AY 2013-2014.
- Under the Medically Underserved Communities Section: For allopathic and osteopathic medicine: use graduates from AY 2010-2011. For all other disciplines: use graduates from AY 2013-2014.

Question 15: When I try to input data for Section D – Forecasted Cash Needs line 13. Federal (Total for 1st year) of the SF-424 it will not allow me to, what can I do?

Answer: Input totals into the yellow highlighted 1st Quarter, 2nd Quarter, 3rd Quarter and 4th Quarter fields. These will automatically populate the line 13 field with the total amount.

Question 16: We have students who reported that they are of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, but I don't know where to enter the number as there isn't a line for Hispanic or Latino (by race).

Answer: Latino/Hispanic is an ethnicity, not a race. If they did not choose a race; then enter into g-race not reported.

Question 17: Where do I place the biographical sketches?

Answer: Along with the staffing plan include the biographical sketches in attachment 2.

Question 18: How do I know what are the page limits?

Answer: Refer to SF 424 Guide, page 44-45, will instruct you on what is counted for and not in page limits.

Question 19: What if our accreditation is expiring?

Answer: If your accreditation is expiring before Jul 1, then provide the expiration date of the anticipated renewal. Proof of accreditation will be necessary before an award can be made to the institution.

Question 20: Question 17 of the SF-424 asks for the Proposed Project dates. What should I enter in these fields?

Answer: The proposed project is 4 years from the start date.

Question 21: Why can't I enter any data on the SDS Program Specific Data Forms Section F under the Primary Care heading for graduates?

Answer: If you selected a discipline on the SDS Program Specific Data Forms that is not defined as a primary care discipline for the SDS Program then you will not be able to populate graduate data for Primary Care under Section F.