Title IV Aid for Students with Intellectual Disabilities

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Background

- Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA) – cornerstone piece of legislation for Higher Education

- Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (HEOA) made changes in title IV, Federal student aid programs

- Negotiated rulemaking

- Final regulations published 10/29/09

Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary Program (CTPP)

- Statutory definition in section 760 of the HEOA (with slight modifications)
- Offered by a participating Title IV IHE
- Designed to support students with intellectual disabilities (ID)
- Includes an advising and curriculum structure
- Requires students with ID to participate in courses and activities with students without disabilities

Student with an Intellectual Disability

- Statutory definition in section 760 of the HEOA (with slight modifications)
- Student:
  - With mental retardation or significant cognitive impairment AND
  - Who is/was eligible for FAPE under IDEA
- Private/home-schooled students
- Institution ultimately determines if student meets the definition

Student Eligibility

- ❑ Must be enrolled in an approved CTPP
- ❑ Must maintain satisfactory academic progress under school's policy
- ❑ Must have filed a Federal application for aid (FAFSA)
- ❑ May not be in default on a Federal student loan
- ❑ Must be a US citizen or national
- ❑ Documentation

Program Eligibility

- For students to get title IV aid, school must apply and receive approval from the Department:
  - Detailed description of the program
  - Satisfactory academic progress policy
  - Length/number of credit hours in the program
  - Educational credential/identified outcomes for all students in program
  - Evidence that institution has notified its accrediting agency of the program

Next Steps?

- Research will likely lead to changes in the future

- Program eligibility – what must/should these programs include?

- Integration into institutions? UDL?

- Best practices?

THANK YOU!

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