

HODGES UNIVERSITY STUDENT LOAN CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Definitions

- a. "Employee" or "School employee" means any employee, agent, student financial aid contractor, director, officer or trustee of the school. For purposes of the Code of Provisions relating to gifts and stock ownership, this term includes family members of the Employee. For purposes of Paragraph 2 of this Code, this term includes family members living in the same household as the Employee.
- b. "School" means all colleges, campuses, departments or other components of the higher education institution.
- c. "Student loan lender" or "lender" means any entity involved in making, holding, consolidating, originating, servicing or guaranteeing any loan to students or parents to finance higher education expenses. This includes lenders who provide private educational loans as well as lenders who provide loans that are made, insured or guaranteed by the U.S. Department of Education, except loans under the William D. Ford Direct Loan Program.

2. Employee Compensation Prohibition

No Employee of the school or "school-affiliated organization" (as defined in 34 C.F.R. 682.200(b)(5)(i)(A)(8)) shall accept or solicit anything of other than nominal value from a student loan lender.

"Nominal value" means a total retail value of not more than ten dollars (\$10.00) as calculated over a 12-month period, or as defined by a School policy consistent with applicable federal and state law. This paragraph shall not prohibit School employees from conducting non-student lending business with any lender or accepting or soliciting anything of other than nominal value in any activity unrelated to student loans.

3. Lender Advisory Board Restrictions

A School employee shall not accept any remuneration or reimbursement of expenses for serving as a member of or otherwise participating on a student loan lender's advisory board or committee, consistent with applicable federal student loan requirements.

4. Financial Relationship Prohibition

A person employed in the financial aid office of the school, or who otherwise has direct responsibilities with respect to educational loans or other financial aid, shall:

- a. Avoid any equity or other interest in any student loan lender other than a remote interest;
- b. Avoid consulting or similar financial relationships with student loan lenders and comply with the School's Conflict of Interest Policies & Procedures.

5. Institutional Compensation Prohibition

- a. The School will not accept anything of value from a student loan lender in exchange for any advantage or consideration provided to the lender related to its education loan activity. This prohibition shall include, but not be limited to: (1) the School's receipt from any lender of any computer hardware for which the School pays below market prices, (2) Preferential rates for, or access to, a lender's other financial products and (3) printing costs or services. Notwithstanding

anything else in this paragraph, the School may accept assistance as contemplated by 34 C.F.R. 682.200(b).

b. The School shall not engage in revenue sharing with a student loan lender. "Revenue sharing" means any arrangement under which a student loan lender pays a higher education institution or an affiliated entity or organization a certain sum, fee or percentage calculated in relationship to the volume of loans received by the lender from students of the institution.

6. Preferred Lender List Requirements

a. Best Interests of Students Paramount. If the School decides to develop and/or publish any list of suggested, recommended or preferred student loan lenders ("preferred lender list" or "lender list"), the school shall develop and maintain any lender list based solely on the best interests of student and parent borrowers.

b. Required Disclosures. The School shall prominently disclose on all publications of a preferred lenders list:

- i. The process and criteria by which the list was assembled
- ii. Comparative information regarding interest rates and other benefits offered by the lenders
- iii. Borrowers have the right and ability to select lenders not included on the list.

c. Prompt Certification of Loans from Any Lender. The School will timely certify any loan from any lender selected by the borrower that offers the loan, to the extent consistent with applicable federal student loan requirements. The School will not cause unnecessary certification delays for borrowers who use a lender that has not been recommended or suggested by the School.

d. Minimum Number of Lenders Required. The School shall ensure there are at least three (3) student loan lenders named on each preferred lender list which are not "affiliates" of each other, as described in 34 C.F.R. § 682.212 (h)(3).

e. Review and Update of Preferred Lender Lists. Preferred lender lists must be reviewed and updated at least once a year. When publishing preferred lender lists, the School shall either rotate or randomize the list of lenders or list them alphabetically.

f. Loan Resale. The School shall require that all lenders on a preferred lender list commit in writing to disclose to the borrower before a loan agreement is signed whether there is an existing agreement to sell loans to another lender, if so, the contact information for the lender who will be purchasing the borrower's loan. The School shall inform student and parent borrowers that lenders can, and do sell student loans as well as encourage borrowers to contact their lenders for more information. Further, the School may remove a lender from its preferred lender list if that lender sells loans without ensuring that the advertised loan terms and benefits are honored with the new lender.

g. Different Types of Loans. The School shall not include a student loan lender on a preferred lender list for one type of loan in exchange for benefits provided by the lender with respect to a different type of loan.

7. Promotion of Preferred Lenders Prohibited

The School shall not allow a lender included on a preferred lender list to use the name, emblem, mascot or logo of the school or other words, pictures, or symbols readily identified with the school in the marketing of private educational loans to the students attending the School that implies the School endorses the private educational loans offered by the lender.

8. Master Promissory Notes

The school shall inform borrowers of the procedure(s) for completing the Master Promissory Note or loan agreement with the lender of the borrower's choice, whether or not the lender appears on the school's preferred lender list.

9. Lender Restriction Prohibition

The School shall not restrict borrowers to any particular type of lender (*e.g.*, those that process loans electronically).

10. Private Loans as a Last Resort

The School shall not certify student eligibility for a private educational loan without first informing the borrower that (a) federal financial assistance (including grants and loans under Title IV) may be available and (b) federal loans may provide more advantageous terms to the borrower than private loans.

11. Opportunity Loans

a. The School shall not enter into an opportunity loan agreement with a student loan lender under which the school provides concessions or promises to the lender that prejudice other borrowers. An "opportunity" loan means a student loan provided to borrowers with poor or no credit history, or who otherwise would not meet the student loan lender's eligibility criteria.

b. The School shall not certify student eligibility for an opportunity loan made available pursuant to an agreement between the School and a lender unless (a) the agreement includes the option of short term or partial loans not to exceed one year and (b) the School informs the borrower of the short term or partial loan option, so the borrower can consider different or less expensive financing if the borrower's financial condition improves.

12. Staffing Assistance from Lenders

The School shall not request or accept from any lender any assistance with call center or financial aid office staffing, including in-person school-required initial or exit counseling, except as permitted by applicable federal student loan requirements. The School shall ensure that any lender employees on campus are accurately represented as such and not misidentified as School agents or employees. While lenders may provide professional development training to financial aid administrators and participate in financial literacy outreach activities, lender employees must clearly disclose the name of the entity preparing any written materials and may not promote the lender's products.