



### **Student Loan Code of Conduct**

It is the policy of High Desert Medical College to administer its student loan program in a manner which provides the maximum benefit to its student borrowers. In order to avoid even the appearance of impropriety, neither High Desert Medical College nor any employee of High Desert Medical College, will solicit or accept any benefit from a student lending institution as consideration for any advantage provided to the lending institution in relation to its educational loan activities. The following principles and prohibitions apply to the student loan program at High Desert Medical College:

1. High Desert Medical College shall not engage in any revenue sharing arrangement with any student lending institution.
2. No employee of High Desert Medical College shall accept on his or her behalf, anything of value from a student lending institution.
3. No employee of High Desert Medical College shall serve as a member or participant of a board of a student lending institution, unless the participation is unrelated in any manner to educational loans or the employee has no direct involvement with, or benefits from, the functions of the College financial aid office.
4. No employee, representative or agent of a student lending institution shall be authorized by High Desert Medical College to be identified to the public as an employee, representative or agent of High Desert Medical College.
5. No employee, representative or agent of a student lending institution shall provide staffing services to High Desert Medical College's financial aid office.

### **High Desert Medical College shall not provide a lender list that:**

1. Is used to deny or impede a borrower's choice of lender
2. Contains the names of fewer than one student lending institutions
3. Includes student lending institutions that have offered a benefit to High Desert Medical College or its student borrowers in exchange for inclusion on the list.

### **No lender list shall be provided unless it contains the following:**

1. A disclosure in plain language of the process by which High Desert Medical College selects student lending institutions for the lender list including the method and criteria utilized and the relative importance of each criteria.
2. A clear statement that the borrower has the right and ability to select the educational loan provider of the borrower's choice, is not required to use any of the lenders on the list and will suffer no penalty or unnecessary delay for choosing a lender not on the lender list.

Inclusion on the lender list shall be determined solely by considering the best interests of the borrower. Any student lending institution placed on the list shall provide assurance to High Desert Medical College and to borrowers that the advertised benefits upon repayment will continue to inure to the benefit of the borrower regardless of whether the lending institution's loans are sold.

The list shall not include any student lending institution that to High Desert Medical College's knowledge after reasonable inquiry has an agreement to sell its loans to another lending institution unless the existence of the agreement is clearly disclosed. Favorable placement on the list shall not be provided to any student lending institution for a particular type of loan in exchange for benefits provided to High Desert Medical College or its students in connection with a different type of loan. The contents of any lender list shall be reviewed and updated at least annually.

High Desert Medical College shall inform student borrowers and prospective borrowers of all financing options available under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 including information on terms and conditions of available loans under that Title IV or under State law that are more favorable to the borrower.

High Desert Medical College shall not direct in any manner, potential borrowers to electronic promissory notes or other loan agreements that do not provide a reasonable and convenient alternative for the borrower to complete such documents with any federal approved student lending institution offering the relevant loan in this State.



*If you qualify for the Federal Direct Stafford Loans (Sub & Unsub), please be aware that the federal government charges a loan fee. The Federal Direct Stafford Loans are required by law to provide a range of flexible repayment options, including, but not limited to, income-based repayment (IBR) and income-contingent repayment (ICR) plans, and loan forgiveness benefits, which other student loans are not required to provide; and Federal Direct Stafford Loans are available to students regardless of income.*

*Private student loans are not federal student loans. Private loans are credit based and may have, either, a variable or fixed interested rate. Private student loans can offer variable interest rates that can increase or decrease over time, depending on market conditions. Private student loans have a range of interest rates and fees; students should determine the interest rate of, and any fees associated with the private student loan before accepting the private loan. The student should contact the lender of the private student loan if they have any questions about the private student loan. The private student loan interest rate may depend on the borrower's credit rating. The student has the ability to choose any lender.*