

Sponsored Programs Monthly

Uniform Guidance—Basic Training

Reform of Federal Grants Policies



Federal guidelines for higher education awards (currently OMB A-21, A-110 & A-133) are merging with five other circulars into one comprehensive document.

We will cover major changes through this newsletter and our listserv. Also, you are invited to attend a webinar hosted by NCURA on May 14 (Noon-2:30). For locations and to sign up, please go to <https://dfs.ksu.edu/events/register.aspx>.

The Names: Which one is your favorite?

“Uniform Guidance” ; “Omni-Circular”; “Omnibus Guidance”; “Final Guidance” ; “Circular A-81” (Eight circulars in one); 2 CFR Part 200 or Title 2.

The complete official name is “*Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*” and it is found in 2 CFR Chapters I and II, Parts 200, 215, 220, 225, and 230. The Federal Register release of this guidance can be found at:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-12-26/pdf/2013-30465.pdf>

Who did this?

This new combination of eight Office of Management & Budget (OMB) circulars is the work of the Council on Financial Assistance Reform (COFAR) in response to Presidential directives to ease administrative burden and strengthen oversight. The COFAR appears to be using the name “Uniform Guidance” consistently, so my office will try to do the same in the communications we provide. The COFAR Grants Reform webpage can be found at <https://cfo.gov/cofar/>

How long do we have to figure this out?

- ◆ The guidance is effective December 26, 2013 for Federal agencies and they must implement the requirements to be effective by **December 26, 2014**. Federal agencies must submit drafts of implementing regulations to OMB by June 2014.
- ◆ The administrative requirements and cost principles will apply to new awards and additional funding increments made after December 26, 2014.
- ◆ Audit requirements will apply to audits of fiscal years beginning on or after December 26, 2014.