

Misrepresentation and Fraud

If the institution suspects that an applicant, employee, or other individual has misreported information and/or altered documentation to fraudulently obtain federal funds, the institution will report its suspicions (and provide any evidence) to the Officer of the Inspector General (OIG).

The appropriate actions will be taken against any student or prospective customer who misrepresents him- or herself.

Help prevent financial aid/scholarship fraud

On November 5, 2000, Congress passed the College Scholarship Fraud Prevention Act of 2000 (CSFPA). The CSFPA enhances protection against fraud in student financial assistance by establishing stricter sentencing guidelines for criminal financial aid fraud. It also charged the Department, working in conjunction with the Federal Trade Commission, with implementing national awareness activities, including a scholarship fraud awareness site on the ED Web site.

To file a complaint, or for free information, students or parents should call 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357) or visit <http://www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams>.