

Student Loan Code of Conduct

University of the Cumberlands supports and complies with the Higher Education Opportunity Act's (HEOA) provisions regarding the Code of Conduct required to be adopted and enforced by institutions participating in the Title IV loan program. All University of the Cumberlands employees with responsibilities for the administration of student educational loans are informed annually of the provisions of the Student Loan Code of Conduct.

Student Loan Code of Conduct Purpose

University of the Cumberlands recognizes that ensuring the integrity of the student financial aid process is critical to providing fair and affordable access to higher education. Therefore, the University has formalized the following guiding principles that shall be effective immediately. These guidelines are designed to avoid any potential for a conflict of interest between the University, and its students or their parents, in the student financial aid process. For purposes of this Code of Conduct, a "Lending Institution" is any entity (other than an institution of higher education or a governmental entity such as the U.S. or Kentucky Department of Education) involved in the making, holding, consolidating or processing of any student loans.

Policy

1. **University employees shall receive no personal benefit.** No employee or officer of the University shall accept or solicit anything of more than nominal value on his or her behalf or on behalf of another person or entity from any Lending Institution. Specifically, no employee or officer of University of the Cumberlands shall accept or solicit, from any Lending Institution: (i) payment for entertainment expenses or any lodging, rental, transportation or other gratuities related to lender-sponsored activities; (ii) payments for registration, transportation or lodging at lender-sponsored conferences and trainings; and (iii) solicitations or invitations to serve on lender advisory boards and/or payments related to such service. Additionally, University of the Cumberlands employees and officers shall not accept or solicit, from any student loan guarantee agency: (i) payments for entertainment expenses or any lodging, rental transportation or other gratuities related to activities sponsored by the guarantee agency.
2. **University employees shall not serve on lender advisory board for remuneration.** No officer or employee of the University who makes financial aid decisions for the University or who is employed in, supervises or otherwise has responsibility or authority over the University's financial aid office shall receive any remuneration for consulting services and/or serving as a member or participant of a student loan advisory board of a Lending Institution or any reimbursement of expenses for such service. Any officer or employee of the University who serves as a member or participant of a Lending Institution's board shall recuse himself or herself from any board discussions regarding the University's financial aid operations.
3. **University shall not provide any advantage to a Lending Institution.** The University shall not accept anything of value from any Lending Institution in exchange for any advantage or consideration provided to the Lending Institution related to its student loan activities, including but not limited to revenue-sharing, printing costs or below-cost computer hardware or software. Likewise, the University shall not allow any Lending Institution to: (a) staff the University's financial aid office at any time; or (b) communicate with the University's students or their parents in such a manner as to create the impression that the Lending Institution is an employee or agent of the University in connection with the University's student financial aid operations, including through the use of mascots, logos, and other marks. Finally, the University shall not enter into any agreement with a Lending Institution to provide alternative (i.e., private, non-federal or "opportunity") student loan programs if the provision of such alternative loan programs prejudices other students or parents, or if the acceptance of such funds by the University is conditioned on the University providing concessions to the Lending Institution.

4. **University of the Cumberlands has chosen not to offer a preferred lender list.** Students are encouraged to seek out the best option that fits their individual situation. All students are encouraged to use Federal Loans first and to fully research all of the terms and conditions before obligating themselves.