

The Department of Education's *Experimental Sites Initiative*

Competency-Based Education

February 2015

Agenda

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- The Competency-Based Education (CBE) Experiment

2

- Reporting Requirements

3

- The Process To Get Started

Responsibilities of Institutional Offices



Administrative Capability
668.16(b)(1) and (4)

Competency-Based Education

Objective

- To learn how a new method of disbursing Federal student aid may support self-paced competency-based education programs and benefit students enrolled in those programs

Competency-Based Education

What is CBE?

- Organizes content according to competencies – what a student knows and can do – rather than using a traditional scheme
- Measures a student's academic progress by assessing learning outcomes, typically on the basis of mastery of a defined set of competency standards

Competency-Based Education

Traditional Postsecondary Programs

- Measure students' progress based on:
 - Number of credit or clock hours completed, and
 - Weeks of instructional time that have elapsed
- Classes have defined start and end dates

Competency-Based Education Programs

- Measure students' progress by assessing learning on the basis of mastery of a defined set of competency standards
- Programs are self-paced and courses do not have specific end dates

Competency-Based Education

Requirements to Participate

- Must provide at least one program which is offered through competency-based education for at least one academic year
AND
- Program must be approved or recognized by an accrediting agency as a competency-based education program

Competency-Based Education

Waivers

Law/Regulation	Description
34 CFR 668.4(c)	Definition of a payment period
34 CFR 690.63(e)(2)	Calculation of a Federal Pell Grant for a payment period
34 CFR 685.303 (e)(2) and (3)	Annual loan limits for Direct Loans

Competency-Based Education

Waivers

Law/Regulation	Description
34 CFR 674.16(b)(3), 34 CFR 676.16(a)(3), 34 CFR 686.33(a), 34 CFR 690.76(a)	Frequency of disbursements for grants and Perkins Loans
HEA Section 428G(a)(2) and 34 CFR 685.303(d)(3)(ii)(B)	Determining disbursement dates for Direct Loans
HEA section 484 B and 34 CFR 668.22 NOT exempt from 34 CFR 668.22(a)(2) and 34 CFR 668.22(a)(6)	Treatment of Title IV funds when a student withdraws
HEA Section 484 (c) and 34 CFR 668.34 (a)(3)(ii),(a)(5)(ii), and (b)	Satisfactory academic progress

Direct and Indirect Costs

Direct Costs (DC)

- Tuition and Fees
- Books and supplies

Indirect Costs (IC)

- Room and Board
- Transportation, miscellaneous expenses, etc.

Disbursement

Current Rules

- Disbursements for direct costs and indirect costs made at same time
- Disbursements for a term-based program are made each term
- Disbursements for a nonterm program are made when the student completes both 50% of credits and weeks in the academic year

Experiment

- Disbursements for direct and indirect costs may occur at different times
- Disbursements may be made for direct costs when competencies have been mastered
- Disbursements for indirect costs must be made at regular intervals

Payment Periods

Current Rules

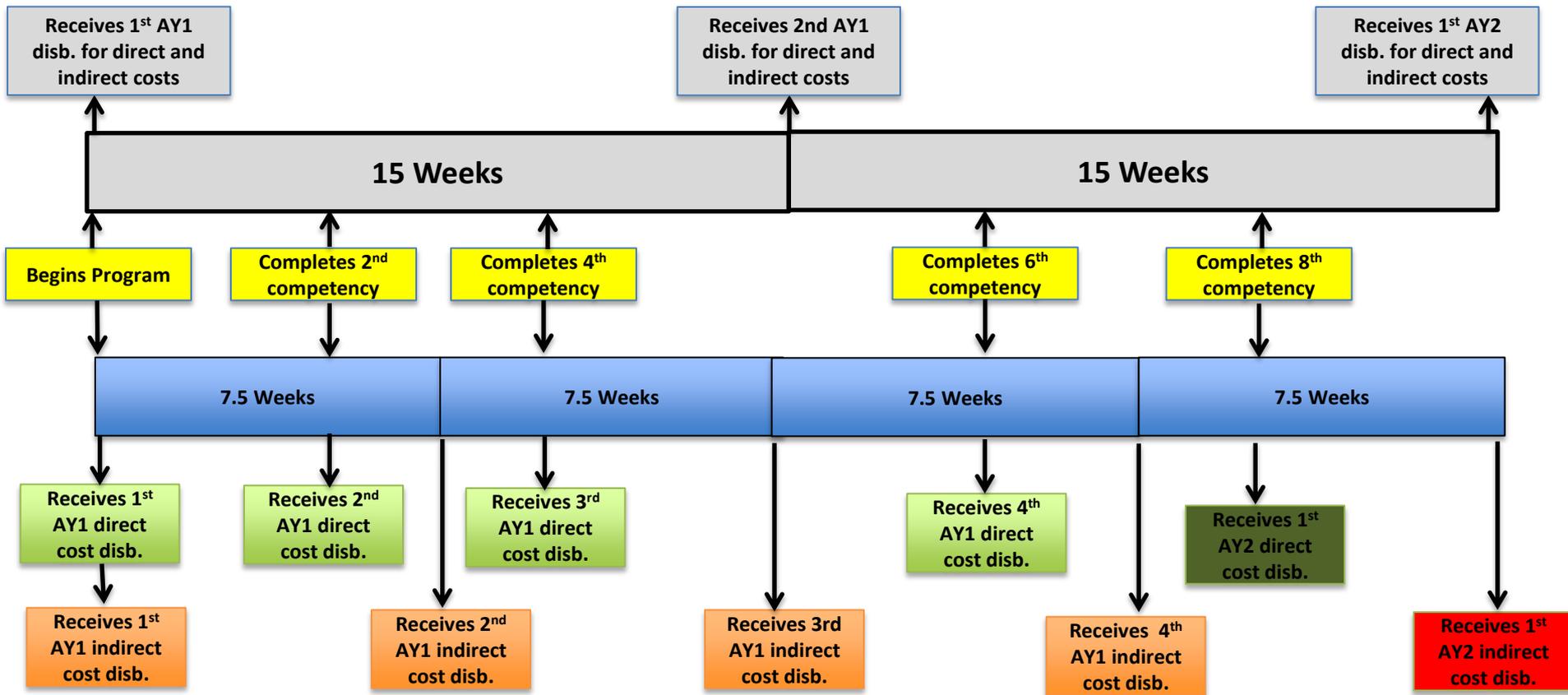
- Term program: Each term is a payment period
- Nonterm program: A payment period is the time it takes for the student to complete 50% of the credits in the academic year and 50% of the weeks in the academic year

Experiment

- Two types of payment periods: direct costs payment periods and indirect costs payment periods
- Payment periods are no more than 25% of the defined Title IV academic year component

Disbursement Progression

- Accelerating through program



Legend:

Student Progress

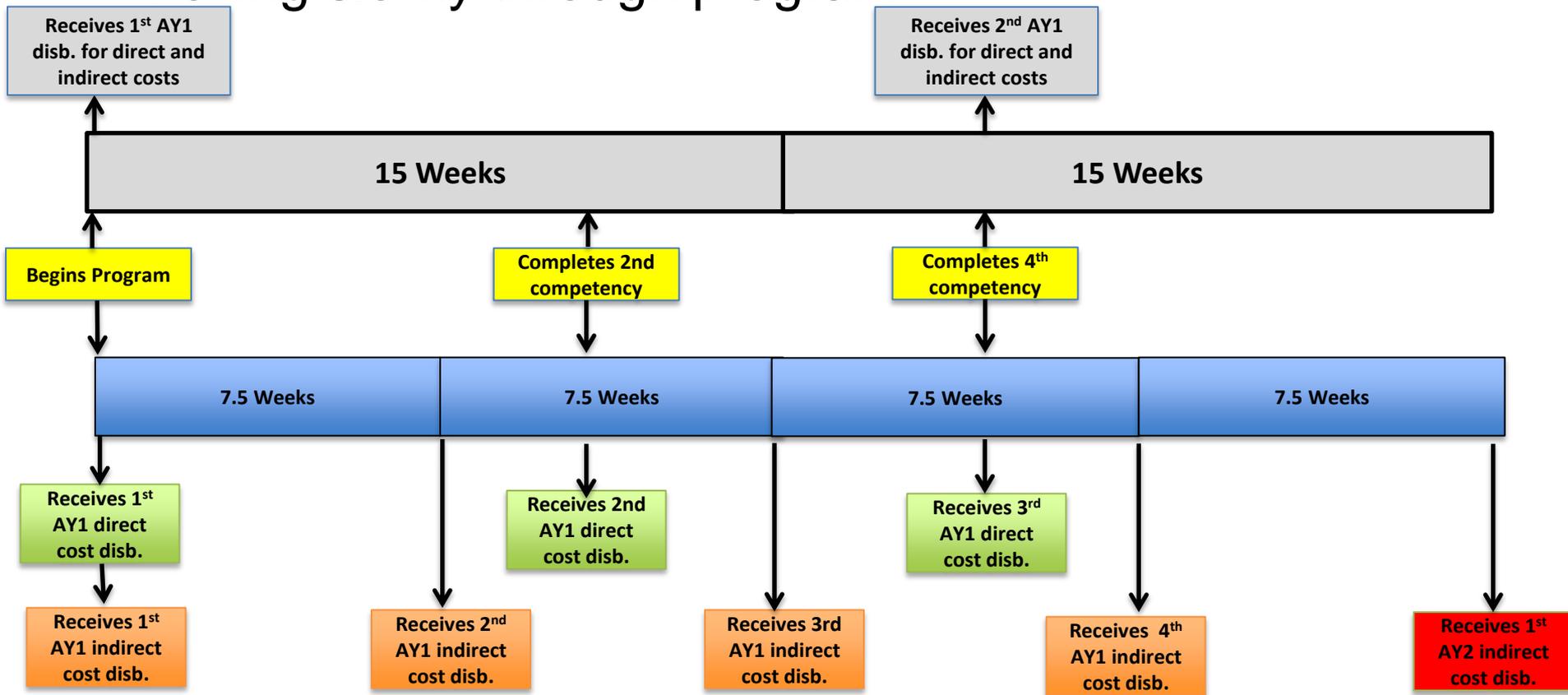
Current Nonterm Rules

CBE Experiment Rules

Note: In this example, each competency is the equivalent of three semester hours

Disbursement Progression

- Moving slowly through program



Legend:

Student Progress

Current Nonterm Rules

CBE Experiment Rules

Note: In this example, each competency is the equivalent of three semester hours

Competency-Based Education

Issues to Consider

- Is your system equipped to handle separate disbursements for direct and indirect costs?
- How will you track student academic progress?
- Are other offices at your institution ready to assist with providing accurate and timely information?

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Current Rules

- Must check once annually but can check more often
- Quantitative evaluation determines whether a student is on pace to complete within 150% of normal time, and is calculated by dividing credits completed over credits attempted

Experiment

- Must check at least once when the student finishes the weeks in the program's Title IV academic year, but can check more often
- Quantitative evaluation is whether student is on pace to complete the program within 150% of the normal time over a given calendar period

Return of Title IV Funds (R2T4)

Current Rules

- R2T4 calculation is required if a student withdraws during the payment period

Experiment

- Because payment periods are shorter and disbursements are smaller, R2T4 calculations are not required
- Institutions must pay grant funds or notify students of loan funds that could have been disbursed as of the withdrawal date

Reporting

Examples of reporting requirements include:

- Number of students
- Enrollment status
- Types and amounts of grant and loan assistance received
- Grade Point Average (GPA) and other reflections of academic performance
- Narrative description and evaluation of the implementation of the experiment

Invitation to Participate

We accepted ED's Invitation



How do we get stated?



Who can answer our questions?

Invitation to Participate

We are pleased to inform you that your institution has been selected to participate in one or more of the upcoming academic program experiments under the Experimental Sites Initiative (ESI). We ask that, no later than **March 1, 2015** you indicate whether your institution accepts this invitation to participate in the experiments. You do this by printing a copy of this two-page memo and placing an 'X' next to the experiment(s) in which your institution wishes to participate. You may choose to participate in an experiment even if your original letter of interest did not include that experiment. If you no longer wish to participate in any of the experiments, simply place an 'X' next to the "None" line.

Experiments:

_____ Prior Learning Assessment

_____ Competency-Based Education

_____ Limited Direct Assessment

_____ None. We do not wish to participate

Invitation to Participate

Please provide the following information and signatures for the financial aid administrator and an academic official.

Institution's Name and OPEID:

Name _____ OPEID _____

Financial Aid Administrator:

Name _____ Title _____

Email _____ Signature _____

Academic Official:

Name _____ Title _____

Email _____ Signature _____

Program Participation Agreement



FSA sends the school the Amendment to the PPA
School signs and returns via courier service



FSA sends the school a countersigned amendment to the PPA

- School keeps copy

Work with your Accrediting Agency

Approval/Designation as CBE

- Program must be approved or recognized by your institutional accrediting agency as a competency-based education program
- Approval as a direct assessment program fulfills this requirement

The E-App Process

The logo for E-App, featuring the text "E-App" in a blue, pixelated font with a blue underline.

Update E-App with CBE Programs

- Ensure program is approved/authorized by accrediting and state agencies and meets all program eligibility requirements
- Add Programs to E-App In Section L
- Submit updates to the Department

A yellow horizontal bar with a blue circle at the end, positioned above the text "Section K".

Questions 59-71

Update E-App Question # 69

- Offer program in which at least one academic year is offered solely through competency-based education
- If program is already reported on E-App as a regular program and now has a CBE component, make notation that the program is now offered with a CBE component.

ESI Website

<https://experimentalsites.ed.gov>

Experiments

Experiments

List of Participants

- List of Participants

Participation Checklist

Activity	Action
Return “ Invitation to Participate ” Letter to ESI Team	
Sign and return amended PPA	
Contact Accrediting Agency	
When instructed by the ESI Team, update E-App	
Access and review ESI Website , use Action Plan(s)	
Complete Evaluation	

Contact Information

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Questions and Answers