2015-2016 FEDERAL PERKINS LOAN PROGRAM GUIDELINES

The Federal Perkins Loan program is set to expire effective 10/1/2015 unless Congress takes action to extend the program. In 2014-2015 Rensselaer students received $5.8 million dollars under the program. The following guidance has been provided by the Department of Education for schools to follow in the event the program ends.

Eligibility Requirements:

New Borrower (student who has never borrowed a Federal Perkins Loan at Rensselaer or the last disbursement of a Federal Perkins Loan occurred at another school)

1. Must meet all eligibility requirements – i.e. be enrolled at least half time, making satisfactory academic progress, toward a degree, completed verification if selected by the Department of Education and/or Rensselaer, must demonstrate financial need (as determined by the Office of Financial Aid).

2. Complete Perkins Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN).

3. Complete Perkins Loan Entrance Counseling.

4. First disbursement of Perkins loan for the 2015-2016 academic year would occur prior to 10/1/2015. There are no exceptions allowed based on current guidance from the Department of Education. Thus it is important that a new borrower completes all necessary requirements.

Note: A new borrower who does have a disbursement within the 2015-2016 academic year will not be allowed to borrow in future academic years.

Prior Borrower (student who has at least one disbursement of Federal Perkins Loan while attending Rensselaer prior to 7/1/2015)

1. Must meet all eligibility requirements – i.e. be enrolled at least half time, making satisfactory academic progress, toward a degree, completed verification if selected by the Department of Education and/or Rensselaer, must demonstrate financial need (as determined by the Office of Financial Aid).

2. Has a valid Perkins Master Promissory Note (MPN) on file with Rensselaer and completed Perkins entrance counseling.

3. First disbursement of Federal Perkins loan for the 2015-2016 academic year would occur prior to 10/1/2015. If the loan has not disbursed prior to 10/1/2015, the student must meet ALL of the following requirements in addition to items 1 & 2 above):

   a. Most recent disbursement of a Perkins Loan was while the student attended Rensselaer and prior to 7/1/2015.

   b. Student is enrolled in the same academic program (i.e. major) as when the student received last Perkins Loan disbursement.

   c. Student has exhausted all of the Federal Direct Subsidized Loan funding for which the student is eligible for the 2015-2016 academic year.
4. Examples regarding major changes:

   a. **Student’s first Perkins Loan disbursement for the 2015-2016 academic year would occur prior to 10/1/2015.** The student may change his major at any time during the 2015-2016 academic year, but in a future academic year, if the major changes the student becomes ineligible for Perkins loan.

   b. **Student’s first disbursement of a Federal Perkins Loan for 2015-2016 would occur on or after 10/1/2015.** The student must be in the same major as when the student received the last Perkins loan disbursement.

   Scenarios:

   - Student last received a Perkins loan in 2014-2015 as a Civil Engineering major. Student may receive Perkins loan for each semester he continues to be a Civil Engineering major.

   - Student last received a Perkins loan in 2013-2014 as a Physics major. Did not receive a Perkins Loan in 2014-2015 and also changes the major to Mathematics in 2014-2015 academic year. The student cannot receive a Perkins loan for 2015-2016 and beyond until the major is once again Physics.

5. Adding a minor or a second major does not impact eligibility but the original major tied to the Perkin loan disbursement is required.

   **Note:** A prior borrower who had a disbursement within the 2015-2016 academic year will be allowed to borrow up to five additional years (up to the year 2020) as long as the borrower meets all eligibility requirements set out by the Department of Education subject to funding availability.

   Any student who wishes to decline the Federal Perkins Loan must notify the Office of Financial Aid in writing via mail to the address below or send us an email using the student’s official RPI email address. Be sure to include the RPI Student Identification Number (RIN) in any correspondence. The request MUST come from the student.

   Rensselaer believes the program should continue and strongly encourages you to write to your US Senators and US House of Representatives immediately to voice your concern about continuing the Perkins Loan program. Should this program be eliminated, Rensselaer will not be able to make up the loss of this funding, requiring past recipients to seek other alternative educational loans to make up the loss of the Perkins loan funding.

   You can easily find your Representative or Senator by visiting the following URL’s:

   - Senate: [http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm#](http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm#)

   Sincerely,

   Office of Financial Aid