

**Eastern Washington University
Financial Aid Fraud Reporting Policy**

Federal regulations (34 CFR 668.16(g)) require a school to refer to the Department's Office of Inspector General (OIG) any credible information indicating an applicant for Federal Student aid may have engaged in fraud or other criminal misconduct in connection with their application. Fraud is defined as the willful misrepresentation or falsification of information for the purpose of securing financial aid for which the individual is not eligible or not eligible to the extent received.

Commonly falsified student items include false claims of independent student status, false claims of citizenship, use of false identities, falsifying prior academic records, forgery of signatures of certifications, and/or false statements of income.

All EWU personnel are obligated to ensure processes are developed to protect against fraud by either applicants or staff. All Financial Aid staff are responsible for detecting and reporting fraud. If, in the staff member's judgment, the applicant and/or their family have provided a fraudulent application or documentation, it must be reported immediately to a supervisor.

If the school suspects a student, employee, or other individual has misreported information and/or altered documentation to increase student aid eligibility or to fraudulently obtain federal funds, it must report those suspicions and provide any evidence to the Department of Education's Office of Inspector General. Verified fraud subjects the perpetrator(s) to up to a \$20,000 fine, prison, or both.

Inspector General's Hotline:

1-800-MIS-USED

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oig/hotline.html>

Office of Inspector General

U.S. Department of Education

400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20202-1510

References:

[34 C.F.R. § 668.16\(f\)](#)

[34 C.F.R § 668.16\(g\)](#)
