Code of Conduct for Student Loans

This code of conduct is applicable to all employees of Our Lady of the Lake College and any affiliated organizations with responsibilities (directly or indirectly) with respect to private student loans. College employees subject to this policy are prohibited from doing any of the following, either on their own behalf or on behalf of the College:

- Participating in a revenue-sharing arrangement with any lender by which the lender pays a fee or provides other material benefits to the College or any officer, employee or agent subject to this policy in exchange for the College’s recommendation of that lender or its loan products;
- Soliciting or accepting gifts, including reimbursement of expenses or payment of expenses of a de minimus amount from any lender, guarantor, or servicer that provides private education loans to students, unless the item or payment in question meets the exceptions set forth in 34 C.F.R.§ 601.21(c)(2)(iii);
- Accepting from any lender or affiliate any fee, payment, or other financial benefit as compensation for any consulting arrangement or other services contract with or on behalf of a lender of private education loans, except that College officers, employees, or agents subject to this policy who do not work in the Office of Financial Aid may serve on a lender’s board of directors, provided that they recuse themselves from any board decisions relating to private education loans at the College;
- Directing borrowers to particular lenders or delaying loan certifications;
- Requesting or accepting from any lender any offer of funds to be used for private education loans in exchange for the College’s providing the lender with a specified number of, loan volume of, or preferred lender arrangement for, private education loans;
- Requesting or accepting any lender’s assistance with a call center or Office of Financial Aid staffing, except that the College may request or accept from any lender (a) professional development training for financial aid administrators, educational counseling or other materials to provide to the College’s student borrowers (provided that such materials indicate the lender’s involvement in preparing or providing them), or (b) short-term, nonrecurring staffing assistance with financial aid-related functions during emergencies; and
- Receiving anything of value from any lender, other than reimbursement for reasonable expenses, in exchange for service on an advisory board, commission, or group established by a lender, guarantor, or group of lenders or guarantors.

Any employee who is offered any gift or monetary compensation from a lender should contact the Office of Financial Aid for clarification and guidance before responding favorably to that offer.

Should an employee subject to this policy inadvertently accept a gift or other type of monetary compensation from a lender, that employee must immediately notify the Director of Financial Aid. The amount received, the name of the employee or agent, a brief description of the activity
and the dates of the activity for which the expenses were paid or provided must be reported to the Director of Financial Aid. The Director of Financial Aid is responsible for reporting this information annually to the Secretary of the Department of Education.

The Director of Financial Aid is responsible for notifying all employees of this requirement annually. This notification will be done via email in January of each year. In addition, this code of conduct will be published on the website of the Office of Financial Aid.

1. This regulation requires all institutions that participate in the federal Title IV student loan programs to adopt a code of conduct that meets the requirements of 34 C.F.R. § 601.21.
2. The regulation cited applies to the College only as its terms relate to private education loans. A list of private education loan lenders may be found on the website of the Office of Financial Aid at http://www.ololcollege.edu.org/content/financial-aid-lending-partners. This is not an exhaustive list, as lenders in the area of private education loans change frequently.