

NCHLP PROGRAM STANDARDS and OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
Proposed Changes and Recommendations 60-day Comments
FFEL, Direct Loan, Federal Perkins, and TEACH Grant Program: Discharge Application: Total and Permanent Disability
OMB No. 1845-0065

Substantive comments are noted by highlighting and bolding in the left column.

	Location	Comment	Proposed Language	Rationale
1.	Section 2, 3 rd bullet	Typo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you are a veteran who has received a determination from the VA that you are unemployable due to a service-connected disability, attach documentation of this determination. You are not required to have a physician complete Section 4. If you do not have documentation showing that you are unemployable due to a service-connected disability and cannot obtain this documentation, you must have a physician complete Section 4. 	Correct language.
ED RESPONSE:		Accepted.		
2.	Section 4, Question 1	Remove topic summary wording, "Ability to Engage in Substantial Gainful Activity".	<p>Ability to Engage in Substantial Gainful Activity. Does the applicant have a medically determinable physical or mental impairment (as explained in Item 2 below) that (a) prevents the applicant from engaging in any substantial gainful activity, in any field of work, and (b) can be expected to result in death, <i>or</i> has lasted for a continuous period of not less than 60 months, <i>or</i> can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 60 months? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>The structure of this question is creating unnecessary confusion and rejected applications. This is because the appropriate answer to the summary wording is "No", to indicate the borrower DOES NOT have an ability to engage in substantial gainful activity. In contrast, the appropriate answer to the wording of the question itself is "Yes"; the borrower DOES have an impairment that qualifies him/her for loan discharge. In many cases, physicians are answering the question "No", but then completing the rest of Section 4 in a manner that indicates the borrower is eligible for discharge. This causes the application to be rejected and returned to the borrower for follow-up with the physician. If the summary wording is removed, the physician will be more likely to closely read the question and answer it</p>

	Location	Comment	Proposed Language	Rationale
				appropriately.
	ED RESPONSE:	We agree that the current structure of the question could result in unintended responses of “No” from physicians who do not carefully read the entire question. However, instead of deleting the heading for the question, we have replaced the current heading with the words “Medically Determinable Physical or Mental Impairment.” This maintains consistency with Items 2 and 3 within the same section, both of which have headings (“Disabling Condition” and “Limitations”).		
3.	Section 5, 4 th bullet, 1 st sentence	Correct spacing and grammar	The post-discharge monitoring period begins on the date the Department grants a discharge of your loan(s) or TEACH Grant service obligation and lasts for three years.	Borrower may have multiple loans to discharge. Consistency with other forms.
	ED RESPONSE:	Accepted.		
4.	Footer	Remove the footer.	REVISED 7/2010	The footer was added to differentiate between two versions of the form, both of which had the same expiration date. It is not needed anymore due to the latest version will have a new OMB approved expiration date.
	ED RESPONSE:	Accepted. The retention of the revision date from the current version of the form was unintentional.		