



# CONSUMER INFORMATION REPORT

DATE DEVELOPED: FEBRUARY 2014

DATE REVISED: OCTOBER 2018

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## INTRODUCTION

This document contains consumer information pertaining to the institute's licensing and accreditation, financial aid, outcomes and statistics, voting registration, and references to additional information.

A hard copy of this report may be obtained by request through the institute.

## ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

### INSTITUTE

F.I.R.S.T. Institute is located at 2309 Silver Star Road in Orlando, FL 32804. It is situated in a facility which provides several fully-equipped, functional, and up-to-date audio recording studios, film and video editing suites, a large sound stage, live rooms, computer labs, and conference rooms.

### ACCREDITATION

F.I.R.S.T. Institute is accredited by the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education & Training (ACCET).  
[www.accet.org](http://www.accet.org)

### LICENSING

F.I.R.S.T. Institute is licensed by the Florida Department of Education Commission for Independent Education (FLDOE CIE). <http://www.fldoe.org/policy/cie>

## FINANCIAL AID

### OVERVIEW

F.I.R.S.T. Institute currently has federal aid available to those who qualify. To apply, students enrolled in programs at F.I.R.S.T. must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). This will determine their eligibility for Federal Stafford Loans, Federal Parent PLUS Loans, and the Federal Pell Grant. The institute code is **G41976**.

Independent students *may* be eligible to receive a loan that will cover a portion of the tuition cost. Dependent students *may* qualify for a Direct Parent PLUS Loan, which would cover the full tuition amount. A FAFSA must be completed to determine what each student qualifies for on an individual basis.

Additional payment options are outlined in the institute catalog at [www.first.edu/Downloads](http://www.first.edu/Downloads).

### NSLDS

All Federal student loans obtained by a student or parent are reported to and tracked on the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS). NSLDS loan records are accessible to all authorized NSLDS users, including schools, student loan guaranty agencies, lenders, federal agencies, and other authorized users.

Alternative and private education loan information is not reported to NSLDS.

Student and parent loan borrowers may view their federal loan information by entering their Federal PIN at [www.nsls.ed.gov](http://www.nsls.ed.gov).

For more information regarding NSLDS, the information they collect, how the information is used, and who is authorized to view the information, please visit [http://www.nsls.ed.gov/nsls\\_SA/SaFaqDetail.do?faqpage=faq7](http://www.nsls.ed.gov/nsls_SA/SaFaqDetail.do?faqpage=faq7).

### RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/>

All students receiving federal financial aid must fulfill the following **responsibilities**:

1. Complete Entrance Counseling (for first time Stafford Loan borrowers)
2. Attend Exit Counseling (for Stafford Loan borrowers)
3. Repay the loan, including accrued interest and fees
4. Notify the lender within ten (10) days of personal changes, including a change of school status
5. Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) (Grade = 70% or higher, Attendance = 80% or higher)  
*Contact the Financial Aid Office for details on how to regain eligibility should a student fail to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress*

All students receiving federal financial aid have the following **rights**:

1. Pre-payment of the loan without penalty
2. Apply for deferment or forbearance, if meet eligibility requirements
3. Ability to cancel or reduce loan, but only under certain specific circumstances
  - a. Borrower dies or becomes totally and permanently disabled
  - b. Borrower files for bankruptcy - this cancellation is rare and only occurs if a bankruptcy court rules that repayment would cause undue hardship
  - c. Borrower works in certain designated public school service professions
  - d. School closes before borrower could complete program
  - e. School owes lender a refund, forged borrower's signature on a promissory note, or certified loan even though borrower didn't have the ability to benefit from the course work (for Direct Stafford Loans only)

#### FEDERAL STUDENT AID LOAN DESCRIPTIONS

##### DIRECT SUBSIDIZED STAFFORD LOAN

Details:

- Need based
- Federal government pays the interest that accrues while student is in school, during grace period, and periods of authorized deferments
- Loan origination fee will be assessed
- Repayment begins following a six (6) month grace period
- Grace period of six (6) months will begin after enrollment ceases or student drops below half-time enrollment
- Minimum monthly payment is \$50 per month
- Standard repayment period is ten (10) years
- <http://studentaid.ed.gov/types/loans/subsidized-unsubsidized>

To apply:

- Complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN)
- Complete Entrance Counseling (if first time Stafford Loan borrower)
- Attend Exit Counseling

##### DIRECT UNSUBSIDIZED STAFFORD LOAN

Details:

- Non need based
- Borrower is responsible for interest that accrues while student is in school, during grace period, and periods of authorized deferments
- Loan origination fee will be assessed
- Repayment begins following a six (6) month grace period
- Grace period of six (6) months will begin after enrollment ceases or student drops below half-time enrollment
- Minimum monthly payment is \$50 per month
- Standard repayment period is ten (10) years
- <http://studentaid.ed.gov/types/loans/subsidized-unsubsidized>

To apply:

- Complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN)
- Complete Entrance Counseling (if first time Stafford Loan borrower)
- Attend Exit Counseling

## FEDERAL PARENT PLUS LOAN

### Details:

- Parent of an enrolled student may apply
- Non need based
- Credit-worthy parent of a dependent student secures his/her loan from a lending institution such as a bank, credit union, or any other participating lending institution
- Dependency status is determined using the FAFSA
- Parent borrower is responsible for interest that accrues
- Parent borrower is responsible for repayment
- Loan origination fee will be assessed
- Repayment begins within sixty (60) days of the final loan disbursement
- Parents may make a request to the lender to defer payments while the student is enrolled - provided the student is enrolled at least half-time
- Minimum monthly payment is \$50 per month
- Standard repayment is ten (10) years
- <http://studentaid.ed.gov/types/loans/plus>

### To apply:

- Provide required information on dependent student's Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN)
- If a parent is denied a Federal PLUS Loan, the student will be allowed the loan limits applicable to an independent student under the Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan program

## SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

All F.I.R.S.T. Institute students are required to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). In order to meet Satisfactory Academic Progress, and obtain a diploma, attendance of no less than 80% and an average grade of 70% or higher is required. If a student is not meeting SAP at the halfway point of their program, they will be placed on Academic Probation for 30 calendar days to bring their performance up to standard. If they fail to meet compliance in that timeframe they may be withdrawn from their program and have their federal aid interrupted, otherwise they may continue. A student is only allowed to be placed on Academic Probation one time, falling below standards a second time will result in withdrawal from the program and interruption of federal funding. *\*Withdrawal means the student will be removed from their program and not permitted to return to the institute.*

## FUND DISBURSEMENT

Federal financial aid is paid directly to F.I.R.S.T. Institute by electronic funds transfer in two (2) disbursements. Students, and parents as applicable, will receive disbursement notices as funds are received by F.I.R.S.T. Institute and credited to the student's school account.

Disbursement #1 - Occurs after all requested documentation is completed, submitted, and approved by the Financial Aid Office and the student begins class.

Disbursement #2 - Occurs after the student has completed one-half of the academic year and it is verified they are maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress.

A thirty (30) day delayed disbursement is required on first disbursements of Stafford Loan funds for first-time borrowers. Students selected for verification must complete the verification process before funds are disbursed.

## EXIT COUNSELING

All students receiving federal funding are required to complete Exit Counseling at the conclusion of their program. Should a student elect to withdraw prior to the end of their program, they are still obligated to attend an Exit Counseling session per the requirements of the Department of Education.

## PENALTIES FOR DRUG LAW VIOLATIONS

A Federal or State drug conviction can disqualify a student from receiving federal financial aid funds.

Students are ineligible to receive Title IV funds if convicted of an offense under any Federal or State law involving possession or sale of illegal drugs for conduct that occurred during the period of enrollment for which the student was receiving Title IV funds; convictions do not count if the offense did not occur during such a period.

'Convictions' only refers to a conviction that is on a student's record. If a conviction was reversed, set aside, or removed from the student's record it does not count. It also does not count if a conviction was received when the student was a juvenile, unless the student was tried as an adult.

Illegal drugs are controlled substances as defined by section 802(6) of the Controlled Substances Act and does not include alcohol or tobacco.

Below outlines the period of ineligibility for federal financial aid programs based on the nature of the conviction and the number of prior offenses:

|                                  | PERIODS OF INELIGIBILITY            |  |   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|
|                                  | ONE CONVICTION                      | TWO CONVICTIONS                            | 3+ CONVICTIONS                            |
| CONVICTIONS INVOLVING POSSESSION | One year after date of conviction.  | Two years after date of second conviction. | Indefinite from date of third conviction. |
| CONVICTIONS INVOLVING SALE       | Two years after date of conviction. | Indefinite from date of second conviction. |   |

## REGAINING ELIGIBILITY

A student regains eligibility the day after the period of ineligibility ends, or when the student successfully completes a qualified drug rehabilitation program. Further drug convictions will reinstate a student's ineligibility.

A student whose eligibility has been suspended indefinitely may regain eligibility only by successfully completing an approved drug rehabilitation program. Also, students who are under a one- or two-year penalty, may regain eligibility prior to the end of their period of ineligibility by successfully completing an approved drug rehabilitation program. It is the student's responsibility to certify to the school that he/she has successfully completed the rehabilitation program.

To qualify as an approved drug rehabilitation program, the program must include at least two (2) unannounced drug tests and meet at least one of the following requirements:

- Has received or is qualified to receive funds directly/indirectly under a Federal, State or local government program
- Be administered or recognized by a Federal, State or local government agency or court
- Has received or is qualified to receive payment directly/indirectly from a Federally or State-licensed insurance company
- Be administered or recognized by a Federally or State-licensed hospital, health clinic, or medical doctor

For more information regarding illegal drug convictions and financial aid eligibility, please visit the Frequently Asked Question section of the FAFSA website ([www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)).

## GENERAL PAYMENT OPTIONS

Tuition is paid-in-full 30 days prior to the student's scheduled program start date. Paying in full guarantees a seat in the upcoming programs being offered.

F.I.R.S.T. Institute accepts cash, check, money order, and credit/debit card payments.

### [Scholarships](#)

F.I.R.S.T. has internal scholarships available for qualified students. For more information, see the scholarship guide at [www.first.edu](http://www.first.edu) under School Downloads.

### [Monthly Payment Plan](#)

Payment Installment Plans are available directly through the institute. Payment plans may be combined or customized based on individual needs and limitations. A down payment of at least \$1650.00 is required at least two weeks prior to the student's scheduled program start date.

1. 4 Installments, 0% interest
  - a. \$4,112.50 per installment
2. 10 Installments, plus \$300 processing fee
  - a. \$1,675 per installment, includes fees

### [Tuition Options \(Educational Lender\)](#)

This third-party program offers low monthly payments and low interest. A down payment of at least \$1650 is required at least two weeks prior to the student's scheduled program start date. The remaining balance is then paid over a maximum of 48 months. \*Funds from federal aid may not be used as the down payment

### [Other](#)

Qualified students may also obtain funds from Vocational Rehab and Florida Prepaid.

## OUTCOMES & STATISTICS

The following contains data for the **2017** calendar year for the following areas:

- Completion, Placement, and Transfer-Out Rates
- Financial Statistics
- Diversity Statistics
- Gainful Employment

### TUITION

Tuition and fees: \$16450.00

Books and supplies: \$200

On-campus room & board: not offered

### PROGRAMS

Each program consists of 744 clock hours (44 weeks). Upon successful completion of the program, graduates obtain a diploma.

#### GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT

##### Recording Arts and Show Production

Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code: **10.0203** Recording Arts Technology/Technicians

Occupational Profiles: 27-4011 Audio and Video Equipment Technicians

27-4014 Sound Engineering Technicians

##### Digital Filmmaking and Video Production

Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code: **50.0602** Cinematography and Film/Video Production

Occupational Profiles: 27-4032 Film and Video Editors

27-4031 Camera Operators, Television, Video, and Motion Picture

27-4011 Audio and Video Equipment Technicians

##### Graphic Design and Web Development

Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code: **11.0801** Web Page, Digital/Multimedia and Information Resources Design

Occupational Profiles: 27-1024 Graphic Designers

Graduates of F.I.R.S.T. Institute complete an Employment Verification Form as early as 30 days following graduation to indicate their employment status within 120 days of graduating. Follow-ups are conducted via phone, email, Facebook, LinkedIn, or a combination to track graduates' progress and offer assistance, if necessary. Common types of employment reported by F.I.R.S.T. graduates include Freelance/Self-Employed, Audio Engineer, Videographer, and Graphic Designer.

The U.S. Department of Education requires colleges and universities to disclose certain information for any financial aid eligible program that, "prepares students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation." While F.I.R.S.T. Institute's mission is to prepare students for successful entry-level careers in the field of digital media, finding gainful employment is the individual responsibility of the student. F.I.R.S.T. Institute does not imply or guarantee that students will find employment or be placed in any particular job as a result of completing an educational program.

## 2017 Outcomes and Statistics

|                                      | <b>Recording Arts<br/>and Show<br/>Production</b> | <b>Digital Filmmaking<br/>and Video<br/>Production</b> | <b>Graphic Design<br/>and Web<br/>Development</b> |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| <b>Gender</b>                        |   |  |   |
| Male                                 | 94  | 26   | 4   |
| Female                               | 15  | 3  | 2   |
|                                      |   |  |   |
| <b>Race/Ethnicity</b>                |   |  |   |
| Nonresident Alien                    | 0   | 0  | 0   |
| Hispanic/Latino                      | 32  | 9  | 2   |
| American Indian/<br>Alaska Native    | 0   | 0  | 0   |
| Asian                                | 1   | 0  | 0   |
| Black/African<br>American            | 33  | 6  | 1   |
| Native Hawaiian/<br>Pacific Islander | 0   | 1  | 0   |
| White                                | 39  | 10   | 3   |
| Two or More Races                    | 2   | 2  | 0   |
| Race/Ethnicity<br>Unknown            | 2   | 1  | 0   |
|                                      |   |  |   |
| <b>Median Loan Debt</b>              |   |  |   |
| Total                                | \$7853.00   | \$7853.00  | \$6095.00   |
|                                      |   |  |   |
| <b>Completion Rate</b>               | 74.64%  | 80%  | 80%   |
| <b>Job Placement<br/>Rate</b>        | 76.24%  | 72.09%   | 75%   |

## VOTING

Students are encouraged to register to vote either via <http://election.dos.state.fl.us/voter-registration/voter-reg.shtml> or by utilizing the hard-copy registration forms available on campus.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Documents elaborating on the following areas may be found on the institute website at [www.first.edu/Downloads](http://www.first.edu/Downloads):

- Security and Fire Safety Manual (Includes Crime Statistics Report)
- Drug and Alcohol Abuse Policy and Prevention Manual