

**Unequal disbursements
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

ESI-Q1. If we've selected a student group to start in Experiment 5, can we add additional groups in subsequent years?

ESI-A1. Yes, you can add groups in subsequent years to Experiment 5. [Guidance issued 7/30/2012]

ESI-Q2. For Experiment 5, if the unequal disbursements will be given to a particular professional career group, should the comparison group only include other professional career groups or should we include undergraduate groups as well?

ESI-A2. The comparison group(s) for experiment 5 should be as similar as possible to the group offered unequal disbursements. If the group being offered unequal disbursements is limited to graduate students, then the comparison group should only include graduate students. [Guidance issued 7/30/2012]

ESI-Q3. Can a participating institution publicize that it may provide unequal disbursements to the relevant population(s) of students?

ESI-A3. Yes. A participating institution may publicize the fact that it can provide unequal disbursements. But remember, the institution must establish a formal, written policy for determining the conditions for unequal disbursements. [Guidance issued 4/9/2012]

ESI-Q4. Must participating institutions seek authorization from the student before providing the student with an unequal disbursement?

ESI-A4. No. However, all students receiving unequal disbursements must be informed of the specific amounts to be disbursed in each payment period. [Guidance issued 4/9/2012]

ESI-Q5. For study abroad students, can a school combine unequal disbursements and early disbursements?

ESI-A5. Yes, but you will report on each experiment separately. FSA will help schools by providing guidance on how to indicate when this crossover occurs. [Guidance issued 7/30/2012]