Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Region 02

CHEDRO2
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Date: 06/08/23
Signature:

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM
No. 148, Series 2023

FOR : **ALL PRESIDENTS/HEADS/OFFICERS-IN-CHARGE OF STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGE (SUCs) IN REGION 02**

SUBJECT : **REITERATION ON THE ELIGIBILITY TO FREE HIGHER EDUCATION (FHE) OF STUDENTS ALREADY ENROLLED IN SUCs AND LUCs DURING THE PASSAGE OF REPUBLIC ACT 10931 AND FAILED TO COMPLETE THEIR PROGRAMS WITHING GRACE PERIOD**

DATE : **June 7, 2023**

Attached is a copy of the **Memorandum** from **ATTY. RYAN L. ESTEVEZ, OIC-Executive Director IV, Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UniFAST),** reiterating the standing administrative interpretation of Section 6 (a) (3) of R.A.10931, which states that:

"**Section 6. Exceptions to Free Tertiary Education**. – The following students are ineligible to avail of the free tertiary education:

(a) In SUCs and LUCs:

...

(3) Students who fail to complete their bachelor's degree or comparable undergraduate degree within a year after the period prescribed in their program..."

For your information and guidance.

Digitally signed by Atty. Marco Cicero F. Domingo
Date: 2023.06.08 [illegible]

ATTY. MARCO CICERO F. DOMINGO
OIC-Director IV

Encl.: as stated

Kindly rate the delivery of our services through the link below:
Link: http://bit.ly/CHEDRO2CSM
Your response shall help us improve our systems
and procedures so we can better serve you.
Thank you.

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MEMORANDUM FROM THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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224184
RECEIVED
DATE: 6-5-23
SIGNATURE

To : **ALL CHED REGIONAL OFFICES**
ALL UniFAST REGIONAL COORDINATORS

From : **ATTY. RYAN L. ESTEVEZ, DPA**
OIC, Office of the Executive Director IV, UniFAST Secretariat

Subject : **REITERATION ON THE ELIGIBILITY TO FREE HIGHER EDUCATION (FHE) OF STUDENTS ALREADY ENROLLED IN SUCs AND LUCs DURING THE PASSAGE OF R.A. NO. 10931 AND FAILED TO COMPLETE THEIR PROGRAMS WITHIN THE GRACE PERIOD**

Date : **June 01, 2023**

This is to reiterate the standing administrative interpretation of Section 6 (a) (3) of R.A. No. 10931, which reads:

"Section 6. Exceptions to Free Tertiary Education. - The following students are ineligible to avail of the free tertiary education:

(a) In SUCs and LUCs:

...

(3) Students who fail to complete their bachelor's degree or comparable undergraduate degree within a year after the period prescribed in their program..."

. As conveyed to the Secretariat by the Office of the Solicitor General on May 27, 2019, students already enrolled in State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) and CHED-recognized Local Universities and Colleges (LUCs) *during the passage of Republic Act No. 10931*, but who fail to complete their programs within a year after the period prescribed for their program are ineligible for Free Higher Education. This view is in consonance with the plain meaning or verba legis rule, which states that when a statute is clear, plain and free from ambiguity, it must be given its literal meaning and applied without attempted interpretation.

The disqualification under Section 6(a)(3) was intended to apply to all Filipino students, whether the student enrolled in the program before or after the effectivity of R.A. No. 10931.

Further, the Secretariat would like to add that the foregoing is consistent with the principle that the provisions of said law shall be understood to favor deserving students and optimized utilization of government resources in education.

This reiteration is being issued to remind old personnel and inform new ones of this existing policy. All are exhorted to disseminate this Memorandum to the SUCs and LUCs under your CHEDRO's jurisdiction. Thank you.