

## Sierra-Cedar Clients Implement Oracle Student Financial Planning: Key Takeaways

Today's higher education landscape is complex. Students expect faster and more reliable services, more transparent communications, and easier access to financial aid programs. Oracle's Student Financial Planning (SFP) application empowers students to manage their financial aid packages and plans while making informed financial decisions about their academic careers with real-time visibility.



To understand the value SFP can bring to your institution, look no further than Sierra-Cedar. We have implemented SFP at multiple higher education institutions in a variety of scenarios. Below are three key takeaways we have learned from working with our clients to implement SFP.

### **SFP Takeaway #1: Improved Student Services**

SFP's user interface simplifies the financial aid process - from application to disbursement. SFP functionality helps to reduce the time it takes to determine students' financial aid eligibility. Sierra-Cedar observed that institutions could deliver award packages earlier, giving students more time to understand their financial aid awards, requirements, and commitments.

### **SFP Takeaway #2: Increased Student Financial Literacy**

SFP's automated processes give staff members ample time to advise students about their financial aid awards. Students are more informed about how their academic choices and program changes impact their financial aid eligibility and more knowledgeable about monitoring and managing student loan debt. SFP features a built-in cost calculator, which helps to promote responsible borrowing.

### **SFP Takeaway #3: Better Communications**

SFP enables institutions to communicate regularly with students about financial aid requirements and eligibility via the Student Portal. Institutions can upload financial aid award letters to the Student Portal, and students receive automated emails notifying them that financial aid award letters are available. Should students withdraw, the system automatically notifies the Department of Education. One user told Sierra-Cedar that the functionality is "beyond slick!"

Read more about the features of SFP on Oracle's website. To learn more about implementing Oracle Student Financial Planning with Sierra-Cedar, email [Contact@Sierra-Cedar.com](mailto:Contact@Sierra-Cedar.com) or call 866.827.3786.