

Submission for the 2021 Larry L. Sautter Award

Project Title: CampusLogic StudentForms Implementation Phase II

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Project Summary:

CampusLogic StudentForms implementation project replaces key FAFSA verification functionality that resides in the FAME legacy system and moves it to the CampusLogic StudentForms product. This new financial aid product will significantly enhance the student and staff experience through a more efficient process, a user-friendly interface, responsive communication, and multi-platform document submission that expeditiously handles the application to completion.

Problem Statement:

The FAME legacy system is used by the Office of Financial Aid for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) verification process. This in-house developed system is based on an older technology that is specifically customized for the business needs of UCI. The system requires intensive yearly maintenance and updates to stay current, resulting in utilization of a large amount of resources, time, and coordination. In addition, the legacy system does not adequately support today's student expectations, such as the ability to electronically sign documents or use mobile devices to manage their FAFSA verification application.

Solution:

To effectively transition from an older legacy system into a more up-to-date solution, the new system must have the capability to integrate well with a variety of environments including the university inhouse systems, document management system, and other web services provided by the university or the Department of Education. CampusLogic StudentForms delivers well on these needed capabilities and reinforces the following qualities that promotes and advances the University's mission.

Fosters Positive Change through Enhanced Student Experience:

- Facilitates quick and clear communication with students and parents on their verification status at their convenience.
- Students can immediately see their assigned tasks using CampusLogic StudentForms online workflow.
- Students and parents have the ability and freedom to securely upload documents from their preferred location at any time.
- Students and parents can electronically sign documents and thus reduce time and effort from manual printing, signing and sending of the documents.

Effective Innovation:

• As the project faced challenges on bridging the legacy system architecture and data structure with the new cloud-based solution, the Office of Information Technology was able to effectively come up with well thought out and creative solution. For example, the project encountered significant gaps on how the verification status, grouping of related student information records and other related data are processed in the legacy system versus the new solution. The IT team was able to successfully resolve these gaps by finding creative and elegant system design solution that prevents potential issues in the future.

> Improved Operational Efficiencies:

 Automated email communication with students significantly reduces time spent following up with students to complete critical tasks.

- Staff spend less time on verification with paperless file review reducing the manual processes.
- Financial Aid staff are able to seamlessly manage student workflow-based tasks and communication for the verification process.
- Designated Financial Aid staff have the ability to make system configuration changes for the academic year and thus significantly reduce the need for the IT team resources, coordination and support.

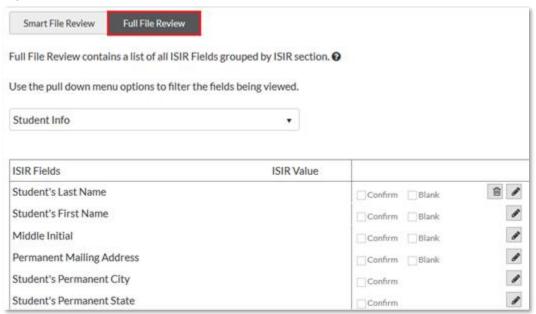
Demonstrated Collaboration:

• As COVID-19 started midway through the project, it immediately presented significant challenges for the students and the Office of Financial Aid. Since students are unable to physically provide the required documentation on campus and limited staff availablity on-site, this became a significant challenge to the Financial Aid process as the deadline dates for the required documents draws near. The project team consisting of the Financial Aid business subject matter experts, Office of Information Technology, CampusLogic business and technical experts worked diligently and expeditiously together in providing paperless electronic solution on time without impacting the overall project. As a result, the major risks has been averted and became a major win for the students and the university.

Technology:

CampusLogic StudentForms is a financial aid SaaS product solution that automates and simplifies workflows for both the student and financial aid staff and is accessible through a variety of platforms including mobile devices. Provided below are the feature details that the system solution offers to this project, significantly benefiting both the student and staff.

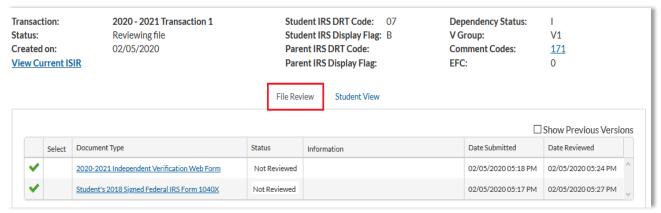
Capability for staff to review and correct Institutional Student Information Records (ISIR) for the Department of Education.



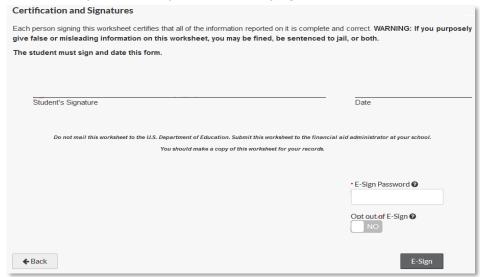
Multi-platform and mobile ready solution allowing the students to review and complete assigned tasks, fill out electronic forms and upload documents from any device.



> Staff ability to review and process application tracking activities with CampusLogic StudentForms.

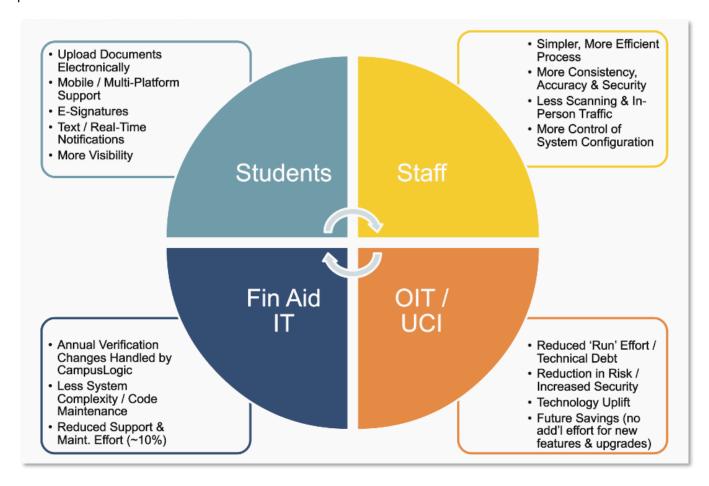


- > Automated and customizable email or text communication to the student, including reminders to ensure all outstanding CampusLogic StudentForms verification tasks are complete.
- Students and parents ability to electronically sign documents.



Conclusion:

CampusLogic StudentForms implementation project successfully bridged the transition from an older legacy system to a more up-to-date and efficient solution that ultimately provides significant benefits to the student, staff, Financial Aid IT, and the Office of Information Technology (OIT) as illustrated below. It exemplifies Larry L. Sautter and UC IT Leadership Council's vision and commitment to technology, innovation and collaboration as well as advances the University's mission of teaching, research, and public service.



Additional References:

- CampusLogic StudentForms: https://campuslogic.com/products/studentforms/
- Case Studies: https://campuslogic.com/success-stories/case-studies/