

INTRODUCTION:

The Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993 required all government agencies to manage by results. In response to this act, the Chief Financial Officers Council adopted the following vision for financial management:

“Enabling government to work better and cost less requires program and financial managers, working in partnership using modern management techniques and integrated financial management systems, to ensure the integrity of information, make decisions and measure performance to achieve desirable outcomes and real cost effectiveness.”

As specified in the CFO Council's vision, a key business requirement of the financial management function is an integrated financial management system which manages the flow of financial information across all of SFA's information systems. This vision requires financial management systems to support the partnership between program and financial managers and to assure the integrity of information for decision-making and measuring of performance.

In response to GPRA, the Joint Financial Management Improvement Program (JFMIP), a joint cooperative undertaking of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the General Accounting Office, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Office of Personnel Management, adopted a framework and requirements to improve financial management practices in government. JFMIP has worked on interagency projects that developed a financial systems framework and financial systems requirements for the Core Financial System, Direct Loan System, Guaranteed Loan System, and Grant Financial System. The financial management system requirements in these documents apply to all departments and agencies in the executive branch of the Federal Government.