

Financial Aid Terms & Conditions

By accepting financial aid from Missouri State University, the student acknowledges and agrees to the following terms and conditions governing federal, state, institutional, and private financial assistance.

General Eligibility Requirements

Financial aid eligibility is determined using information submitted on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), institutional records, and other documentation requested by the Office of Student Financial Aid. To receive and retain financial aid, students must:

- Be admitted to and enrolled in an eligible degree or certificate program
- Meet all federal, state, and institutional eligibility requirements
- Maintain enrollment in coursework that applies toward their declared degree program
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress (SAP)
- Provide any additional documentation requested by the Office of Student Financial Aid
- Remain in compliance with federal student aid regulations and university policies

Financial aid awards are subject to change at any time due to changes in federal or state appropriations, institutional funding, enrollment status, residency classification, housing status, FAFSA corrections, verification, receipt of additional aid resources, or changes in eligibility.

Enrollment Requirements

Most financial aid awards are based on full-time enrollment unless otherwise indicated. For undergraduates, enrollment levels are generally defined as:

- Full-time: 12 or more credit hours
- Three-quarter-time: 9–11 credit hours
- Half-time: 6–8 credit hours
- Less-than-half-time: 1–5 credit hours

For graduates, enrollment levels are generally defined as:

- Full-time: 9 or more credit hours (6 or more hours in the summer)
- Three-quarter-time: 7-8 credit hours (4-5 hours in the summer)
- Half-time: 5-6 credit hours (3 hours in the summer)
- Less-than-half-time: 1–4 credit hours (1-2 hours in the summer)

Federal Pell Grant and Direct Loan eligibility may be available to eligible students enrolled less than full-time and will be adjusted based on enrollment intensity.

Federal Direct Loans generally require at least half-time enrollment. If enrollment drops below half-time status, loan eligibility may be reduced or canceled.

Repeated coursework, audited courses, non-degree coursework, and courses that do not apply toward a student's program of study may not qualify for federal financial aid eligibility.

Academic Year and Summer Enrollment

Financial aid awards are generally offered for the fall and spring semesters of the academic year.

Summer enrollment is considered a separate enrollment period with a separate review process.

Students who borrow their annual federal loan eligibility during the fall and spring semesters may have limited or no remaining federal loan eligibility for summer enrollment.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

Students must maintain satisfactory academic progress toward completion of their degree or certificate program in accordance with the university's published SAP policy. Failure to meet SAP standards may result in the loss of financial aid eligibility. Students are responsible for reviewing the university's SAP policy and understanding all qualitative, quantitative, maximum timeframe, probation, and appeal requirements.

Verification and Documentation

The Office of Student Financial Aid may require additional documentation to verify information reported on the FAFSA or other aid applications. Failure to provide requested documentation in a timely manner may result in delays, reductions, cancellation of aid, or repayment obligations. Submission of requested documentation does not guarantee eligibility for financial aid.

Changes in Financial Circumstances

Students must promptly notify the Office of Student Financial Aid of:

- Changes in enrollment status
- Withdrawal from courses or the university
- Receipt of outside scholarships or educational benefits
- Changes in residency or housing status
- Changes in academic program
- Attendance at another institution during the same enrollment period
- Any additional financial assistance received from external sources

Additional resources may require adjustments to previously awarded financial aid to prevent overawards in accordance with federal regulations.

Consortium, Study Away, and Education Abroad Enrollment

Students participating in consortium agreements, study away programs, education abroad programs, internships, cooperative education, or other approved off-campus educational experiences should contact the Office of Student Financial Aid regarding enrollment requirements and aid eligibility.

Additional documentation or agreements may be required before aid can be disbursed.

Withdrawal and Return of Title IV Funds

Students who withdraw, cease attendance, unofficially withdraw, or fail to complete all courses may have their financial aid eligibility recalculated in accordance with federal Return of Title IV Funds regulations. A portion of federal, state, institutional, or private aid may be reduced or returned, which could result in a balance owed to the university. Students are responsible for reviewing the university's withdrawal and refund policies and understanding the financial implications of withdrawing from coursework.

Disbursement of Financial Aid

Financial aid funds are generally credited directly to the student's university account to pay allowable institutional charges, including but not limited to:

- Tuition
- Mandatory fees
- University housing charges
- Meal plan charges
- Other authorized educational charges

Financial aid disbursement is contingent upon verification of eligibility, enrollment, and compliance with all federal and institutional requirements.

Federal Work-Study earnings are paid directly to students through payroll and are not credited to the student account unless otherwise authorized.

Credit Balance Refunds

If financial aid exceeds allowable institutional charges, a credit balance refund will be issued to the student in accordance with federal regulations. Students are encouraged to establish direct deposit for the timely receipt of refunds. Credit balance refunds are generally issued no later than 14 days after the creation of the credit balance, unless otherwise permitted by federal regulation.

Title IV Authorization for Non-Institutional Charges

By accepting these terms and conditions, the student authorizes the university to apply federal Title IV financial aid funds to current educationally related charges other than tuition, mandatory fees, university housing, and meal plan charges, as permitted under federal regulations. These charges may include, but are not limited to:

- Health center charges
- Library fines
- Parking charges
- Course-related fees
- Emergency loans
- Other authorized educational charges

Students may rescind this authorization at any time by notifying the appropriate university office in writing. Cancellation of this authorization is not retroactive.

Authorization to Apply Title IV Funds to Prior-Year Charges

The student authorizes the university to apply federal Title IV funds to minor prior-year institutional charges not exceeding the maximum amount permitted under federal regulations. Students may rescind this authorization at any time by notifying the university in writing. Cancellation is not retroactive.

Outside Scholarships and Other Assistance

Students must report all external scholarships, tuition assistance, vocational rehabilitation benefits, employer assistance, veterans' educational benefits, and other educational resources to the Office of Student Financial Aid. Failure to report additional assistance may result in overawards and repayment obligations.

Annual FAFSA Requirement

Students seeking federal, state, or need-based institutional financial aid must complete the FAFSA annually and meet all published priority deadlines. Submission of the FAFSA does not guarantee financial aid eligibility.

Consent to Electronic Communications

Students consent to receive financial aid notifications, disclosures, requests for documentation, award notices, and other communications electronically through university email systems and student portals. Students are responsible for monitoring their university-issued email account and student portal regularly.

False Statements and Misrepresentation

Students are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of all information submitted to the university and to federal or state agencies. Knowingly providing false or misleading information may result in:

- Cancellation of financial aid
- Repayment of funds
- Disciplinary action
- Referral to the U.S. Department of Education Office of Inspector General
- Federal fines and penalties

Acceptance of Terms

By accepting financial aid, the student certifies that they:

- Have reviewed and understand these terms and conditions
- Agree to comply with all applicable federal, state, and institutional requirements
- Understand that financial aid eligibility is subject to change
- Authorize the university to administer financial aid in accordance with applicable laws and regulations