FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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The Office of Financial Aid is here to help you invest in your future. It’s a good idea to apply for financial aid at the same time that you apply for admission to OSU. Although we won’t review your financial aid information until after your admission application is filed, you can still apply for financial aid before you have been admitted to OSU. Learn more about your options at OSU by choosing a category below.

Financial aid is based on the premise that you, and in the case of dependent students, your parents are primarily responsible for providing for your educational expenses, and it is intended to supplement student and family contributions toward educational costs. Financial aid comes from many sources, including federal and state government, private organizations, and Oregon State University’s institutional funds. These funds consist of grants, scholarships, federal work study, subsidized loans, unsubsidized loans, and parent loans.

Eligibility/Application Procedures

To be eligible for federal financial aid, a student must:

1. Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), beginning October 1st using previous year tax data (for example the 2020–2021 application will use 2018 tax information). Parents and students are encouraged to use the IRS data retrieval tool to update their income information and submit it by the OSU priority deadline of February 28. The FAFSA application process allows for the completion of tax information questions from the IRS directly from your return! Follow the prompts while completing the application to authorize this information exchange. Always remember that there is no fee to apply for federal aid.

2. List Oregon State University as a school that you would like your information to be sent to on the FAFSA. Oregon State’s federal school code is 003210.

3. The priority FAFSA application deadline for OSU is February 28th. This date is used to determine eligibility for some need-based aid programs as well as state and institutional funds. Applications received after the priority deadline will still be eligible for federal aid such as the Pell Grant and Direct Loans. Graduate students are not eligible for federal Title IV grants or subsidized loans.

4. Make sure you are eligible to receive financial aid. In order to receive federal funding you must:
   • Have a high school diploma or a General Education Development (GED) certificate, or complete a high school education in a home school setting that is treated as such under state law.
   • Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in a degree or approved certificate program (e.g., not special admit)
   • Be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen.
   • Have a valid Social Security Number.
   • Register with the Selective Service if required. You can register online (http://www.sss.gov) or you can call 1-847-688-6888. (TTY users can call 1-847-688-2567.)
   • Maintain satisfactory academic progress as defined by Oregon State University once in school.
   • Are not in default on a federal student loan and do not owe money on a federal student grant.
   • The Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended (HEA) suspends aid eligibility for students who have been convicted under federal or state law of the sale or possession of drugs, if the offense occurred during a period of enrollment for which the student was receiving federal student aid (grants, loans, and/or work-study).

5. Apply for admission to Oregon State University: Apply Online. You will not be considered for any financial aid award until you have applied to the university.

What happens AFTER I apply?

Once you have submitted your FAFSA application online you will receive a confirmation of receipt from Federal Student Aid. They will also send you a Student Aid Report that will give you a summary of your application and inform you of any problems you might need to resolve. You should read this report carefully and resolve problems in a timely manner. If you receive notification that something on your FAFSA is missing or incorrect, you can check your financial aid information through MyOregonState (https://my.oregonstate.edu/) Financial Aid information or email the OSU Office of Financial Aid for further information.

Students whose aid application was received by the end of February may expect to receive an initial award letter by approximately April 1. Aid applications are then completed on a rolling basis by date of receipt with award notifications being sent out as files are completed.

You will receive an email or letter once your financial aid award has been completed. You will also be notified if you need to provide further information in order for us to complete your application. All correspondence will be sent to your ONID email account, so be sure to keep your information up to date!

The award notification will show the type and amount of aid available to you for the coming school year. To reserve these funds, the student must...
read and accept the award within 30 days. The accepted award indicates the student has read and agrees to the terms of the award as outlined.

Understand Before You Accept

By accepting your award, you are stating that you have read, understand, and accept the Terms and Conditions (http://financialaid.oregonstate.edu/review_termsconditions/) of your award. As a recipient of financial aid, you must meet certain requirements to maintain financial aid eligibility. The Office of Financial Aid reserves the right to revise a financial aid award during any time of the year if there are changes in your financial aid eligibility. You will be notified through your OSU student email if new requirements have been established or revisions have been made. Your aid eligibility may change based on FAFSA Verification (http://financialaid.oregonstate.edu/verification-faqs/), Satisfactory Academic Progress (http://financialaid.oregonstate.edu/review_satisfactoryacademicprogress/), withdrawing (http://financialaid.oregonstate.edu/receive_withdrawal/), and other factors. If you will be less than full-time (12 credits as an undergraduate/post-bacc or 9 credits as a graduate student) please submit an enrollment revision form (http://financialaid.oregonstate.edu/forms/) to let us know.

Acceptance Deadlines

The acceptance deadlines listed on your award letter do not apply to federal Ford Direct subsidized and unsubsidized loan offers. If you are still deciding how much to accept in Ford loans, you may wait until closer to the start of the term to accept that portion of the aid offer.

Students Who Are Not Yet Admitted

You will not be able to login and accept your aid offer until you have received your Admission's letter and your OSU student ID number. If you have not yet received your ID number and cannot login to MyOregonState (https://my.oregonstate.edu/), you may disregard the acceptance deadline listed on your award letter. Just be sure to accept or decline your aid offer once the Admission's process is complete.

How to Accept Your Aid Offer

To accept your financial aid, login to MyOregonState (https://my.oregonstate.edu/). Log in using your ONID username and password. If you need assistance with this information, you can contact the OSU Computer Help Desk at 541-737-3474.

You can then accept, reject, or revise your Financial Aid Award through MyOregonState (https://my.oregonstate.edu/) by completing the following steps:

• Select the Paying for College tab
• Select Financial Aid Awards
• Select the appropriate year (ex. 2020-2021) in the top right of the screen
• Select the Award Offer tab
• Click Submit when done
• Go to Student Loans (https://studentaid.gov/) to complete any necessary Entrance Counseling and Master Promissory Notes (these are both required in order to receive federal student loans)

• If you will be enrolled less than full-time submit an enrollment revision form (http://financialaid.oregonstate.edu/forms/)

*You may accept all or a portion of aid awarded to you. You are also not required to accept the maximum loan amount offered to you. To borrow a lesser amount, indicate the total amount of loan you wish to borrow for the academic year. When deciding what amount to accept, please note that your loans must be divided up equally throughout the academic year.

*You are responsible for notifying the OSU Office of Financial Aid in the event that you receive any additional awards from any other source. The OSU Office of Financial Aid will then make any required revisions to your aid package. The receipt of additional aid may result in a reduction or elimination of aid from university-administered programs, even if it has already been paid.

*If you are considered a dependent student, your parents can also apply for a Parent PLUS loan up to the remaining cost of attendance by completing a PLUS loan application and Master Promissory Note available for them through the Federal Student Loans website. (https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/index.action/)

*Important notice about Parent PLUS loan applications: The PLUS loan application will not be available for 2020-2021 until May 01, 2020. If you attempt to apply prior to that date you will be told that OSU does not participate in the program. Rest assured, OSU DOES participate in the Federal Direct Parent PLUS loan program. Applications for parent PLUS loan requires a credit check each time the parent applies for the loan and is only valid for 180 days. Applying too early may cause delays with processing and disbursements. Students can review their file status by logging into their ONID account.

Types of Financial Aid

Federal Programs

Federal Pell Grant

A need-based grant from the federal government intended for high need undergraduate students seeking their first bachelor’s degree.

• After the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is filed, the Department of Education sends you a Student Aid Report (SAR) or an Information Acknowledgement if you filed online. These documents will indicate if you are Pell eligible and it is important to review them for accuracy.

• Based on the Congressional approval of year round Pell, students may now receive up to 150% of their Pell eligibility in a single year. You may be eligible to receive a fulltime Pell Grant for all 4 terms of the academic year. Terms in which a student is attending less than halftime (fewer than 6 credit hours) may not be counted towards this additional eligibility.

• Students may receive the Pell grant for a maximum of 18 terms/12 semesters. Utilizing your year round Pell will use this lifetime eligibility (https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships/pell/calculate-eligibility/) more quickly.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

• A need-based grant from the federal government intended for high need undergraduate students seeking their first bachelor’s degree.

• Administered by the OSU Office of Financial Aid. Funds are limited and eligibility is based in part by meeting the OSU priority FAFSA submission deadline of February 28.
Federal Loan Basics

Federal College Work-Study Program (FWS)

Federal College Work-Study Program (FWS) program helps provide part-time jobs for students with financial need to help them pay for their education.

- The program is administered by the OSU Office of Financial Aid. Funds are limited and eligibility is based on need and in part by meeting the OSU priority FAFSA submission deadline of February 28.
- Being awarded FWS funds allows you to apply for jobs that specifically have the Work-Study designation. If you are awarded FWS and secure a Work-Study job, you will be paid monthly for hours worked.
- The amount of FWS indicated on your award is the maximum amount you may earn for the academic year. Funds are paid monthly on the basis of hours worked in the pay period not to exceed 20 hours per week.
- Students not awarded FWS may still apply for jobs both on and off campus.

Please review our Work-Study Page (https://financialaid.oregonstate.edu/Work_Study/) for more detailed information.

LOANS

Loans: Federal Aid THAT DOES HAVE TO BE REPAID

Federal Loan Basics

- Federal Student Loans are aid that must be repaid.
- You must file a FAFSA each year to receive a federal loan offer.
- On Subsidized Loans, the U.S. Department of Education pays the interest while you are attending school at least half time.
- On Unsubsidized Loans, you are responsible for paying the interest during times of deferment.
- Parent Plus and Graduate Plus loans require a credit check and separate application each year.
- Minimum halftime enrollment is required each term to receive federal loans.
- Find interest rate and origination fees for all federal loans online (https://Studentaid.ed.gov/SA/types/loans/interest-rates/)
- There are yearly, aggregate, and timeframe maximums for federal loans.
- The Perkins Loan program has not been extended beyond the 2017-2018 aid year. Repayment and deferment options are handled by the OSU Business Affairs Student Loan Office (https://fa.oregonstate.edu/business-affairs/perkins/). Please see our Perkins disclosure page (https://financialaid.oregonstate.edu/federal-perkins-loan-program-extension-act-additional-disclosures/) if you have an existing Perkins loan.

Types of Federal Loans

Subsidized Federal Ford Direct Student Loan

- Subsidized means the U.S. Department of Education pays the interest (https://Studentaid.ed.gov/SA/types/loans/interest-rates/) while you are attending school at least half time.
- Awarded to undergraduate students with financial need.
- The amount you are awarded is determined by your financial need and class rank.
- If you have not received a Federal Ford Direct Loan at OSU in the past, you must complete Entrance Counseling and a Master Promissory Note online (https://Studentaid.gov/).
- Repayment begins 6 months after graduation or dropping below half time enrollment.
- Has yearly, aggregate, and timeframe limits.

Unsubsidized Federal Ford Direct Student Loan

- Unsubsidized means you are responsible for paying the interest (https://Studentaid.ed.gov/SA/types/loans/interest-rates/) during times of deferment.
- Awarded to undergraduate and graduate students.
- The amount you are awarded is determined by your class rank and dependency status.
- If you have not received a Federal Ford Direct Loan at OSU in the past, you must complete Entrance Counseling and a Master Promissory Note online (https://Studentaid.gov/).
- If you are a dependent student and your parent has been credit denied for the Parent Plus loan this year, you may submit a Student Loan Revision form to request an increase in the Ford Direct unsubsidized student loan.
- Repayment begins 6 months after graduation or dropping below half time enrollment.
- Has yearly and aggregate limits.

Parent PLUS Federal Loan

- The Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan is a credit based loan borrowed by the parent on behalf of a dependent undergraduate or post-bacc student for educational expenses.
- Has no yearly or aggregate limits but amounts must fit into the expected cost of attendance.
- The loan is unsubsidized meaning you are responsible for paying the interest (https://Studentaid.ed.gov/SA/types/loans/interest-rates/) during times of deferment.
- The parent borrower must complete a Direct PLUS Loan Application and Master Promissory Note (MPN) online (https://Studentaid.gov/).
- The credit check, run as part of the application, is only valid for 180 days. Do not complete the application more than 180 days before the start of the term, or before May of the respective year if attending summer term.

*For applicants who have been determined to have an adverse credit history, but qualify for a Direct Parent PLUS loan by documenting extenuating circumstances or obtaining an endorser must complete the PLUS Counseling online (https://Studentaid.gov/). Students can review their file status by logging into their MyOregonState (https://my.oregonstate.edu/account).

*If a Parent Plus loan has been credit denied for this year, the student may submit a Student Loan Revision form (https://financialaid.oregonstate.edu/forms/) to request an increase in the Ford Direct unsubsidized student loan.

Graduate PLUS Federal Loan

- The Federal Direct Grad PLUS Loan is a credit based loan borrowed by graduate students to assist with educational expenses.
- Has no yearly or aggregate limits but amounts must fit into the expected cost of attendance.
The loan is unsubsidized meaning you are responsible for paying the interest during times of deferment.

You must complete a Direct PLUS Loan Application and Master Promissory Note (MPN) and Entrance Counseling online. The credit check, run as part of the application, is only valid for 180 days. Do not complete the application more than 180 days before the start of the term, or before May of the respective year if attending summer term.

*For applicants who have been determined to have an adverse credit history, but qualify for a Direct Graduate PLUS loan by documenting extenuating circumstances or obtaining an endorser must complete the PLUS Counseling online.

**FEDERAL LOAN LIMITS**

**Dependent Undergraduate Ford Direct Student Loan Maximum Per Year:**

- $5,500 freshman ($3,500 of that may be subsidized if eligible)
- $6,500 sophomore ($4,500 of that may be subsidized if eligible)
- $7,500 junior/senior ($5,500 of that may be subsidized if eligible)

* If a Parent Plus loan has been credit denied for this year, the student may submit a Student Loan Revision form to request an increase in the Ford Direct unsubsidized student loan. The maximum increase is $4,000 for fresh/soph and $5,000 for jr/sr.

**Dependent Undergraduate Ford Direct Student Loan Aggregate Maximum (Limit for all years combined):**

- $31,000 Ford Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans Combined (no more than $23,000 of that may be subsidized)

* If a Parent Plus loan has been credit denied for this year, the student may submit a Student Loan Revision form to request an increase in the Ford Direct unsubsidized student loan. In this case the aggregate maximum increase is to $57,500.

* The credit hour maximum timeframe (MTF) is an additional limitation beyond the federal aggregate aid maximums. More information about the MTF may be found on the Satisfactory Academic Progress section of our website.

* The Subsidized Federal Direct Ford Loan is need-based with the government paying the interest on the loan while the student is enrolled. Effective July 1, 2013 there will be a limit on the amount of time that a student is allowed to borrow subsidized loan funds which will be tied to their program length. Students that exceed 150% of their program length will no longer be eligible to receive subsidized loan funds, regardless of any extensions granted based on the Satisfactory Academic Progress appeal process through the Office of Financial Aid.

**Independent Undergraduate Ford Direct Student Loan Aggregate Maximum (Limit for all years combined):**

- $57,500 Ford Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans Combined (no more than $23,000 of that may be subsidized)

* The credit hour maximum timeframe (MTF) is an additional limitation beyond the federal aggregate aid maximums. More information about the MTF may be found on the Satisfactory Academic Progress section of our website.

* The Subsidized Federal Direct Ford Loan is need-based with the government paying the interest on the loan while the student is enrolled. Effective July 1, 2013 there will be a limit on the amount of time that a student is allowed to borrow subsidized loan funds which will be tied to their program length. Students that exceed 150% of their program length will no longer be eligible to receive subsidized loan funds, regardless of any extensions granted based on the Satisfactory Academic Progress appeal process through the Office of Financial Aid.

**Graduate Ford Direct Loan Limits**

**Graduate Ford Direct Student Loan Maximum Per Year:**

- $20,500 (unless seeking certain medical or professional degrees)

**Graduate Ford Direct Student Loan Aggregate Maximum (Limit for all years of undergraduate and graduate work combined):**

- $138,500 (unless seeking certain medical or professional degrees)

* The credit hour maximum timeframe (MTF) is an additional limitation beyond the federal aggregate aid maximums. More information about the MTF may be found on the Satisfactory Academic Progress section of our website.

**Campus Scholarships**

These limited merit and need based scholarships are administered by the Office of Scholarships and the Office of Financial Aid. Incoming students are considered based on completion of the scholarship portion of the admissions application. Eligibility is limited to students who have completed fewer than 12 terms and submit the application for Admission by February 1. Recipients must be enrolled full-time and are notified of their awards in writing. Criteria is available on the Scholarships website. For a searchable database of scholarships, visit ScholarDollars.

**Departmental Awards**

Each department on campus administers their own awards. Contact the department or donor directly for specific information regarding the award.

**Private Awards**

These awards come from outside donors and can affect your financial aid package. Outside scholarship checks should be mailed to: Student Accounts, Oregon State University, PO Box 1086, Corvallis, OR 97339. If you have not already submitted notification to the Financial Aid Office regarding your outside scholarships, please submit the Reporting.
Additional Sources of Assistance form located on the Financial Aid Forms page.

State of Oregon Opportunity Grant

The Opportunity Grant is a state grant administered by the Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) and awarded to undergraduate Oregon residents based on need and allowable funding. Students must complete the FAFSA (https://fafsa.ed.gov/) or ORSAA (https://oregonstudentaid.gov/fafsa-orsaa.aspx) each year in order to be considered. Twelve terms of eligibility are possible. This grant is not available during summer term.

OSAC Scholarship Application

Start your OSAC Scholarship Application (https://app.oregonstudentaid.gov/), final deadline is March 1 of each year. In the event that it falls on a weekend or holiday, the deadline will automatically be extended to 5:00 p.m. (PST) of the following business day.

Oregon Student Child Care Grant

You may apply for the Oregon Student Child Care Grant (https://app.oregonstudentaid.gov/) if you are an Oregon student seeking financial support for college students with children in daycare.

Other Programs

Private Supplemental/Alternative Loan

Students needing additional funding for school, whose aid package has not fully met their cost of attendance, may opt to apply for funding through a private lending agency. These loans have a variable interest rate, and a credit check must be done on all applicants. OSU cannot recommend lenders for private/alternative loans. More information may be found on our webpage (http://financialaid.oregonstate.edu/review_aidtypes_privateloans/).

Graduate Students

Based on the FAFSA application, graduate degree seeking students may be eligible to receive Unsubsidized Direct Loans. The annual loan maximum for non-professional students is $20,500 per academic year. The aggregate borrowing limit is $138,500. This includes all Federal Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized loans borrowed for undergraduate and graduate study. Students must be enrolled at least half time (5 credits) and repayment begins six months after graduation, withdrawal, or if you drop below half-time enrollment. Interest rate and origination fee information may be found on the FSA webpage (https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/loans/interest-rates/). For more information, visit our graduate student webpage (http://financialaid.oregonstate.edu/graduate-student-aid/).

In addition to Unsubsidized Direct Loan, Graduate Students can apply for a credit based Graduate PLUS loan (https://studentaid.gov/). If credit approved for this loan, graduate students may accept up to their remaining cost of attendance for that year.

Before you can receive a PLUS Loan, your school must have determined your maximum eligibility for Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loans.

In addition to these Federal Aid Programs, the Graduate School offers additional information on Assistantship, Grant and Scholarship Opportunities on their webpage (http://gradschool.oregonstate.edu/).
"self-help" assistance in the form of loans. Adjustments are not made for consumer debts, car payments, or private school tuition.

Adjustments may include, but are not limited to:

- Medical or dental cost not covered by insurance
- Computer expense (one time allowance)
- Child care cost for children 12 and under
- Commuting costs from outside the Corvallis area
- Costs related to students with disabilities
- Study abroad program fees

Parent or Student Expected Contributions (EFC)

The information you reported on your FAFSA is used to calculate a number called the Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The EFC is not the amount of money that your family must provide. The school uses the EFC to determine the amount of your federal grants, loans, or work-study awards for which you may be eligible.

Changes in Your Situation

Financial Aid offices may consider special or unusual circumstances that impact your family situation. Please contact us with any questions you might have regarding your eligibility for a review.

Renewing Aid

You must apply for financial aid every year by submitting a FAFSA application. Applications must be received before February 28 at the central processor to be considered for priority funding. You may apply for aid online after October 1st for the following academic year.

Dropping Courses and the Census Date

Dropping courses impacts your financial aid in several ways. Aid is based on your enrollment level on the Census Date (https://financialaid.oregonstate.edu/receive_censusdate/) of each term. For undergraduates, full-time status is 12 or more credits, 3/4 time is 9-11 credits, 1/2 time is 6-8 credits, and less than halftime is 1-5 credits. Less than fulltime enrollment may affect your financial aid eligibility. Students enrolled less than halftime are not eligible to receive most types of aid including federal student loans. If you plan on being less than fulltime you must submit an enrollment revision form (https://financialaid.oregonstate.edu/forms/) to the Office of Financial Aid.

Financial aid eligibility each term is based on your level of enrollment on the Census Date (https://financialaid.oregonstate.edu/receive_censusdate/). On this date, budgets and financial aid are adjusted and locked based on your enrollment level at that time. If your aid was paid at the full-time amount and you are less than fulltime on the Census Date, your budget will be revised and your aid may need to be reduced to reflect your Census Date enrollment. This revision may create a new bill on your OSU student billing account.

Dropping or withdrawing from courses after the census date, may also impact your financial aid eligibility for the current and future terms. Withdrawing (https://financialaid.oregonstate.edu/receive_withdrawal/) from all courses, failing to complete courses (unofficially withdrawing), or not participating (https://financialaid.oregonstate.edu/course-participation/) in courses, may result in the partial or full loss of aid eligibility for that term.

Future term eligibility will depend on continuing to make Satisfactory Academic Progress (https://financialaid.oregonstate.edu/review_satisfactoryacademicprogress/).

If you will be less than halftime, be sure to stay in contact with your loan servicer. Halftime enrollment is required in order to keep federal loans in the "in school deferment status". Find more on our Loan Repayment page (https://financialaid.oregonstate.edu/loan-repayment/).

Short Sessions (Courses in Modules)

If a student is enrolled in sessions that do not span the entire 11 week term (modules) there are special rules that apply. You are paid federal financial aid based on all of the modules (entire payment period) you are registered for at the time of disbursement. If you do not complete all of those modules a return of federal funds may be required.

Be sure to monitor your OSU student email carefully. If you drop, withdraw from, or do not fully complete your current modules, you will be considered withdrawn from the term even if you are still enrolled in a future module. In this case you may be emailed a request to complete a survey verifying your intent to participate in future modules. If you do not complete this survey, a return of federal aid may be required. See our Withdrawal Page (https://financialaid.oregonstate.edu/receive_withdrawal/) under “How is the return of federal aid calculation different for short sessions/modules?” for more detailed information on how drops, withdrawals, and non-completion can impact your aid.

The Pell Grant must always be adjusted to exclude payments for any course you do not participate in. If you drop a course before that course session began, we are required to reverse any Pell Grant payments made for that course. Reversed Pell will be returned to the Department of Education. This reversal of aid may create a new bill on your OSU student billing account.

What Happens If I Withdraw?

Students who withdraw from the university after the start of the term must complete a Withdrawal Form through the Registrar’s Office (http://oregonstate.edu/registrar/) and notify the Office of Financial Aid of their current and future term enrollment plans with an Enrollment Revision Form (https://financialaid.oregonstate.edu/forms/). If financial aid funds were used to pay tuition and fees any refundable tuition amount is returned to the appropriate financial aid sources (refer to the tuition/fee refund schedule on the Business Affairs page (https://fa.oregonstate.edu/business-affairs/tuition-reduction-schedule/#text)).

OSU is required to calculate the Return of Title IV financial aid funds for students that officially withdraw (complete the withdrawal process) or unofficially withdraw (ceasing course participation) during the academic term. Students who do not intend to complete the term for which they are enrolled, should follow the official withdrawal process as outlined by university regulations.

The information below is a brief summary of the process that takes place when a student withdraws from all courses or fails to receive a passing grade for a given term. The policies and procedures listed are subject to change without advance notice based on changes in federal or institutional policies. This is not an exhaustive list of the rules pertaining to the Return of Title IV funds. Further guidance regarding these policies and procedures may be obtained by contacting the Office of Financial Aid. Reference material relating to the federal rules for this process may be found in Volume 5 of the Federal Student Aid Handbook (https://
What Happens If I Withdraw From or Do Not Complete a Course

The impact of a partial withdrawal (official or unofficial) will vary greatly by student status, type of aid awarded, participation, and other factors. Students who plan to drop, withdraw, or not complete one or more courses, should contact the Office of Financial Aid for a personalized evaluation of how a partial withdrawal will impact their current and future federal aid eligibility.

Below are some important things to keep in mind about how a partial withdrawal may impact current and future term federal aid eligibility:

**Current Term**

The Census Date is the point at which your enrollment is locked for financial aid purposes. During the fall, winter, and spring terms, the census coincides with the last day you can drop classes for a full tuition refund at OSU. At this point in the term, credit hours are locked and financial aid for the term is adjusted to reflect the student's official enrolled credits. In a standard term length, a partial withdrawal after census does not impact current term aid eligibility in most cases.

Terms when a student is taking short session/modular courses are treated differently. You may be considered completely withdrawn from the term even if you have successfully completed earlier modules or are enrolled in future modules. Review the “How is the return of federal aid calculation different for short sessions/modules?” section (drop down on the lower part of the withdrawal page) for further information.

**Future Term**

To maintain federal aid eligibility a student must make Satisfactory Academic Progress. This means meeting certain criteria for OSU GPA, Pace of completion, and consistency of completion. The Pace of completion percentage is calculated by dividing the number of credits successfully completed by the number attempted. When you withdraw from or do not successfully complete a course, your Pace of completion goes down. For example, if you complete 5 out of 10 credits your Pace of completion is 50%. If you do not maintain a pace of at least 67% overall Pace, federal aid eligibility can be lost. Find out more on our Satisfactory Academic Progress page for further information.

Students are expected to understand the terms, conditions, and requirements that relate to their financial aid award. Additional information on retaining full financial aid eligibility may be found on the Financial Aid webpages:

- Satisfactory Academic Progress
- Terms and Conditions
- Renewing Your Aid
- Census Date
- Course Participation

What Happens If I Do Not Complete Any Courses in a Term?

Federal financial aid is awarded based on the expectation that a student will participate in all of their courses through the last day of the term. When a student does not complete any courses, the Office of Financial Aid is required to review their eligibility for aid that has been or could be disbursed. A return of Title IV (federal aid) calculation must be completed for any student who did not complete the term. A student is considered to have earned the full amount of disbursed federal aid if they participated in all courses and completed more than 60% of the term. In cases where full participation and more than 60% term completion cannot be verified, a return of federal Title IV and other types of aid may be required.

In most cases, the percent completion date used for the Return of Title IV funds calculation will either be based on the date of withdrawal or the last date of participation reported by instructors. In the case of an official withdrawal that is processed during the term, the calculation is usually completed based on the date of official withdrawal reported by the Registrar’s Office. A student is considered unofficially withdrawn if they fail to receive any passing grades in a given term. In the case of an unofficial withdrawal, the date used will be based on participation dates reported by OSU and partner school instructors. The last date of participation may also be used for the Return of Title IV funds calculation instead of the withdrawal date in cases where the participation date is considered more accurate.

In addition to a current term return of federal funds, future term aid eligibility may be impacted by a full withdrawal. Students are expected to understand the terms, conditions, and requirements that relate to their financial aid award. Additional information on retaining full financial aid eligibility may be found on these Financial Aid webpages:

- Satisfactory Academic Progress
- Terms and Conditions
- Renewing Your Aid

How Does a Return of Federal Aid Calculation Work

The Return of Title IV Funds calculation determines the amount of federal funds that must be returned by the institution as well as how much aid the student must return for the period of non-enrollment. For students who completed 60% or less of the term, a pro-rated schedule is used to determine the amount of aid that must to be returned. That means the percentage of aid that a student is eligible to retain for the term is based on the percentage of the term that they completed. If a return of aid amount is calculated, the funds must be repaid to the financial aid programs in the following order:

- Federal Direct Unsubsidized Ford Loan
- Federal Direct Ford Loans
- Federal Perkins Loan
- Federal Direct PLUS Loan
- Federal Pell Grant
- FSEOG

The amount of federal aid that you must repay is determined via the Federal Formula for Return of Title IV funds (Section 484B of the Higher Education Act). This law also specifies the order in which funds are to
be returned to the financial aid programs from which they were awarded, starting with loan programs.

You may be required to make a repayment when cash has been disbursed from financial aid funds, in excess of the amount of aid that you earned (based on the date of your total withdrawal or last date of participation) during the term. The amount of Title IV aid earned is determined by multiplying the total Title IV aid (other than FWS) for which you qualified by the percentage of time during the term that you were enrolled.

If less aid was disbursed than was earned, you may submit a request to receive a late disbursement for the difference.

If more aid was disbursed than was earned, the amount of Title IV aid that you must return (i.e. not earned) is determined by subtracting the earned amount from the amount actually disbursed.

The responsibility for returning unearned Title IV aid is shared between the university and you. It is allocated according to the portion of disbursed aid that could have been used to cover university charges, and the portion that could have been disbursed directly to you once those charges were covered. OSU will distribute the unearned aid back to the Title IV programs, as specified by law. The return of funds will be completed within 45 days of the date the determination of the withdrawal. You will receive a letter by postal mail if the Return of Title IV Funds calculation was completed and a return of funds was required. If the Return of Title IV Funds calculation was not required but funds needed to be returned for other reasons, you will be notified through your OSU student (ONID) email.

You will be billed for the amount that you owe to the Title IV programs, as well as any amount due to the university, as a result of Title IV funds that were returned that would have been used to cover university charges.

Withdrawing (official or unofficially) from a term may also impact a student’s eligibility for financial aid in future terms. Students should familiarize themselves with the Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements for federal aid and should contact the Office of Financial Aid regarding how federal and other types of aid may be impacted.

How is the Return of Federal Aid Calculation Different for Short Sessions/Modules?

OSU has multiple sessions that do not span the entire length of our usual 11 week term (mostly during summer). These shorter sessions are considered “modules” for federal financial aid purposes and these modules have unique rules that may impact federal aid eligibility.

A student may be considered withdrawn if they do not complete all days in the payment period they were scheduled to complete. For a student enrolled in sessions not spanning a full 11 week term, the payment period they are expected to complete is made up of the combined calendars for all sessions that they were paid aid on.

If a student drops courses in a future session while they are enrolled in a current session, they are not considered withdrawn from the term. An aid adjustment may be required for those drops but a Return of Title IV calculation would not be required.

A student who drops, withdraws from, or does not complete their current sessions, will be considered withdrawn from the term even if they are still enrolled in a future session. Students must monitor their student email for the Summer Survey request. Students will be required to submit that survey in order to verify their intent to participate in those future sessions. If this intent to participate survey is not received, a Return of Title IV Calculation must be done even if the student has successfully completed other coursework for the term and is enrolled in future sessions.

For courses in modules, the calendar used in the Return of Title IV funds calculation includes all days within the period that the student was scheduled to complete (including those completed by the student) prior to ceasing attendance. For example, a student enrolls in 2 summer sessions (session 2 spans 6/25-7/20 and session 5 spans 8/20-9/7). If they drop session 5 (a session that has not yet started) before they withdraw from session 2, we calculate using only the session 2 calendar. If they were still enrolled in session 5 when they withdraw from session 2, we calculate on both calendars combined. Calculating on the combined calendars may reduce the completion percentage which may increase the amount of funds that needs to be returned.

Below are 3 examples of how drops, withdrawals, and non-completion can impact aid in modules:

**EX 1. Mary enrolls in 2 summer sessions (session 2 spans 6/25-7/20 and session 5 spans 8/20-9/7).** She withdraws from session 2 on 6/1 and remains enrolled in session 5. In this case Mary will be considered withdrawn from the term if she does not complete the summer survey to confirm her intent to attend session 5. As long as Mary submits that survey and successfully completes session 5, a Return of Title IV calculation is not required.

**EX 2. Joe enrolls in 2 summer sessions (session 2 spans 6/25-7/20 and session 5 spans 8/20-9/7).** He receives a B grade in his session 2 course but, after that course had ended, decides he no longer wants to take the course in session 5. Joe had been paid federal aid with the expectation that he would complete the entire payment period that spanned both sessions. Because he decided not to complete session 5 after session 2 had ended, a Return of Title IV calculation is required and he may end up owing aid money back for the term.

**EX 3. Barry enrolls in 2 summer sessions (session 2 spans 6/25-7/20 and session 5 spans 8/20-9/7).** While enrolled his session 2 course he decides he no longer wants to take the course in session 5 and drops that course. Barry had been paid federal aid with the expectation that he would complete the entire payment period that spanned both sessions. Because he dropped his session 5 course while he was still attending session 2, a Return of Title IV Calculation is not required but his Pell Grant is still reduced for the session 5 course he never attended.

What if I am a Degree Partnership Program Student Who Withdraws from of Fails Partner School Courses

In cases of official and unofficial withdrawal an instructor reported last date of participation (https://financialaid.oregonstate.edu/course-participation/) may be required to determine a student’s aid eligibility. The OSU Office of Financial Aid is not able to contact partner school instructors directly to obtain this information. After a term has ended DPP students may be contacted with instructions on how to complete this verification process. Due to the time sensitive nature of this process, it is very important for DPP students to check their OSU Student (ONID) email regularly to look for these financial aid notifications. Failure to verify participation may result in the reduction or full loss of financial aid eligibility for the term.
\textbf{Student Responsibilities}

\textbf{Reporting Changes}

Your financial aid is based on the information submitted to our office for the current academic year in which you requested aid. To keep your file current and accurate, you are required to report the changes to the OSU Office of Financial Aid. You should expect a revision of your award in most cases. Reasons for changes can include but are not limited to:

- Additional financial assistance: scholarships, grants, loans, fee waivers, Tribal Assistance, tuition/book support, social security benefits or any other monetary award not reported previously.
- Receipt of graduate teaching or research assistantship, and/or fellowship.
- Receipt of resident advisor position.
- Changes in enrollment hours and/or withdrawal from the university.
- Changes in residency status for tuition purposes.
- Change in course load if below full time.

\textbf{Entrance and Exit Interview}

All Federal Direct Ford loan recipients are required to complete an entrance interview prior to receiving the first disbursement of their loan proceeds. They are also required to complete an exit interview during their last term of attendance. (For further information can be found online \(\text{(https://studentaid.gov/)}\)).

\textbf{Appeals}

Students who are not satisfied with a decision of a financial aid staff member may appeal that decision, in writing, and then in person to the following staff in the order indicated: the director of Financial Aid, and then the Financial Aid Appeals Subcommittee. The decision of the director and/or Financial Aid Appeals Subcommittee will be considered final.

\textbf{Student Enrollment Levels}

Federal financial aid eligibility and deferment of student loans are affected by enrollment levels. Summer enrollment levels are the same as other terms.

\textit{Undergraduate}

\textit{Full Time}: 12 or more credits in a term
\textit{Three Quarter Time}: 9 to 11 credits in a term
\textit{Half Time}: 6 to 8 credits in a term

\textit{Graduate}

\textit{Full Time}: 9 or more credits in a term
\textit{Half Time}: 5 to 8 credits in a term

\textbf{OSU ScholarDollars}

Starting November 1st, OSU students may use OSU ScholarDollars to submit an application for the nearly $50 million in campus-based scholarship funding available for the 2019-2020 academic year. By submitting one application, you will be considered for over 1,600 OSU scholarship opportunities!

Newly-admitted and continuing OSU students are eligible to apply for scholarships through OSU ScholarDollars. Students must have been admitted to OSU and have an active ONID account to be able to log into the system and submit an application.

Submit your OSU ScholarDollars application between November 1, 2019 and February 1, 2020 to maximize the number of scholarships for which you will be considered. Most OSU scholarships have a deadline on or after February 15, 2020, but specific deadlines may vary.

Merit-based, need-based, and activity-based OSU scholarships are available, and OSU ScholarDollars also offers a searchable database of external scholarships.

For further information about ScholarDollars, please email the Scholarship Office at scholarship.office@oregonstate.edu.

- OSU ScholarDollars (https://scholarships.oregonstate.edu/scholardollars/)