

FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION 2015-2016

INTRODUCTION

Vantage College recognizes that in many instances individuals and their families are not able to meet the entire cost of education. Therefore, the Financial Aid Office will assist students with the process of applying for federal student financial aid. The Campus Director and / or local Financial Aid Administrator (FAA) are the designated officials at the school for consumer information. If a student or parent has a question, they should not hesitate to contact either one of them. You can reach the Campus Director office and your local FAA by contacting the school's main number located on the school's website, or by calling our toll-free number (800) 778-3923.

TYPES OF FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility for federal student aid is based on financial need and on several other factors. Generally, to be eligible for Federal Financial Aid, a student must:

- demonstrate financial need (except for certain loans).
- 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 as a regular student working toward a degree or certificate in an eligible program.
- be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen.
- have a valid Social Security Number.
- register with the Selective Service if required. A student can use the paper or electronic FAFSASM to register, register at www.sss.gov, or call 1-847-688-6888. (TTY users can call 1-847-688-2567.)
- maintain satisfactory academic progress once in school.
- certify that he or she is not in default on a federal student loan and does not owe money on a federal student grant.
- certify that he or she will use federal student aid only for educational purposes.

To apply for federal student aid you should complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. These forms can be found on the Department of Education's website, www.fafsa.ed.gov. Ask your financial aid advisor for your school's code. Your actual eligibility amounts will be determined from the information you report on the FAFSA.

GRANTS

Federal Pell Grant

Federal Pell grant is gift assistance that does not have to be repaid. Pell grants are awarded to students who have a financial need as determined by the U.S. Department of Education standards. Annually, the U.S. Department of Education determines student eligibility for this grant. For the 2015-2016 award year, the minimum grant for a full-time student is \$626 and the maximum grant is \$5,775.

A student is eligible to receive a Pell Grant for up to 12 semesters or the equivalent. If a student has exceeded the 12-semester maximum, he or she will lose eligibility for additional Pell Grants beginning in 2016-17 school year. Equivalency is calculated by adding together the percentage of

Pell eligibility that he or she received each year to determine whether the total amount exceeds 600%.

For example, if your maximum Pell Grant award amount for the 2014-2015 school year was \$5,775, but you only receive \$2,887.50 because you were only enrolled for one semester, you would have used 50% of your maximum award for that year. If in the following school year, you were enrolled only three-quarter time, you would have used 75% of your maximum award for that year. Together, you would have received 125% out of the total 600% lifetime limit.

LOANS

Subsidized Federal Direct Stafford Loan

The Subsidized Federal Direct Stafford Loan program provides low interest loans through the U.S. Department of Education's Direct Loan Program. Subsidized Stafford Loan - Interest does not accrue while student is enrolled at least half-time. Fixed interest rate of 4.29% starting with the 2015-16 Financial Aid year. Repayment begins 6 months after student graduates or ceases attending school at least half-time. Subsidized Stafford Loans also require a 1.073% origination fee at each disbursement on or after 10/01/14 and before 10/01/15, or an originating fee of 1.068% on or after 10/01/15 and before 10/01/16.

Borrowers with other outstanding loans may be eligible to consolidate eligible loans into one consolidated payment.

Please refer to your Loan Entrance counseling package for additional information.

Unsubsidized Federal Direct Stafford Loan

The Unsubsidized Federal Direct Stafford Loan program provides additional loan funding to students who do not qualify for a full Subsidized Stafford Loan or who need additional loan funding. The Federal government does not pay the interest on unsubsidized loans while the student is in school, in-grace, and during deferment periods. Student loan borrowers are responsible for all interest that accrues on the loan while in school, in-grace, and during deferment periods. The student may elect to make interest payments while in school to avoid the capitalization of interest and to lower the overall repayment debt. Fixed interest rate of 4.29% starting with the 2015-16 Financial Aid year. Repayment begins 6 months after student graduates or ceases attending school at least half-time. Unsubsidized Stafford Loans also require a 1.073% origination fee at each disbursement on or after 10/01/14 and before 10/01/15, or an originating fee of 1.068% on or after 10/01/15 and before 10/01/16.

Please see your Financial Aid Administrator to receive further information regarding the maximum Stafford annual loan amounts for second or subsequent academic years.

Parent PLUS Federal Loan

Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan is available to assist parents and guardians in borrowing all or a portion of the cost of education for undergraduate students. The interest rate for the Direct PLUS loan is a fixed 6.84%. The PLUS loan offers several benefits available to borrowers including deferment of repayment until after the student graduates (or drops below half-time enrollment status). PLUS Loans require a 4.204% origination fee at each disbursement. Unlike Stafford Loans, PLUS loan are credit-based and require a simple credit check at the time of application.

Graduate PLUS Federal Loan (not currently available at Vantage College Campuses)

The Federal Graduate PLUS loan is a credit-based loan, available to students enrolled in a post-baccalaureate program who wish to apply for additional assistance. The amount of the Graduate PLUS loan cannot exceed the student's cost of attendance less other student aid awarded. The interest rate varies and is adjusted each year, not to exceed 9% and begins to accumulate on the date of the first

disbursement. Graduate PLUS loans through the Federal Direct Loan Program first disbursed on or after 7/1/2015 will have a fixed interest rate of 6.84%. Please review your Loan Entrance Interview package for additional information regarding your loans. The first payment will be due within 60 days after the final loan disbursement. Payments will include both principal and accumulated interest.

Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant

Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant is gift assistance that does not have to be repaid. The Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant is awarded to students who have the most financial need as determined by the U.S. Department of Education standards. For the 2015-2016 award year, the minimum grant for a full-time student is \$100 and the maximum grant is \$4,000.

Federal Perkins Loan (not currently available at Vantage College Campuses)

The Federal Perkins loan is a deferred payment, deferred interest loan administered by your institution. Students with exceptional need may qualify for Perkins loans in amounts up to \$5,500. Although this loan is made with government funds, availability of aid is dependent on the availability of Perkins funds at your institution and the need of other student applicants. Therefore, Vantage College cannot guarantee availability of funds.

Students who receive a Federal Perkins loan are subject to the terms and conditions disclosed on the Federal Perkins Loan Master Promissory Note and have a fixed interest rate of 5%.

WORK-STUDY

Federal Work-Study – (not currently available)

The Federal Work-Study program offers students the opportunity to meet part of their expenses by working part-time on or off campus for at least minimum wage. A limited number of assignments are available, and priority is given to students with the greatest financial need who are qualified for the job assignments available. Please see your Financial Aid Office for available assignments and additional information regarding the Federal Work-Study Program. See the Terms and Conditions of Federal Work Study Employment as Part of the Financial Aid Package section below.

STATE, LOCAL, INSTITUTIONAL, AND OTHER PRIVATE AID PROGRAMS

Students enrolled in Vantage College may be eligible for grant assistance from the State of Texas, or from other states.

Information about these grants opportunities can be found following the links below:

- Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board website includes information related to State and Federal Grants, Private and Corporate Grants and Scholarships, and Institutional Grants. Texas students - <http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/> > Applying and Paying for college
- Students from states other than Texas - <http://www.studentaid.ed.gov/> > Types of Aid > state where you live.
- For military students and veterans the following link provides information regarding educational benefits: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/>

APPLYING FOR FEDERAL STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

Each student interested in receiving financial assistance must submit the “Free Application for Federal Student Aid” (FAFSA) or provide a copy of the Student Aid Report (SAR) if the FAFSA was previously completed within the award year.

The Financial aid office will utilize the results of the FAFSA to estimate and determine the student’s financial aid eligibility.

A student may be chosen to participate in a *verification* process of the information submitted on the FAFSA by the U.S. Department of Education. A student may be selected by the U.S. Department of Education's Central Processor (CPS) following procedures established by federal regulation.

If, during the application process, the file is selected for "verification" by the U.S. Department of Education, the student and their family must submit all documents required to validate the information listed on the FAFSA application.

Students should refer to www.studentaid.ed.gov website which is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education for more detailed information.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTING RECIPIENTS

Students must complete a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form. Application forms are free and may be obtained from the Financial Aid Officer or online at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>. Students are directed to read the instructions carefully when completing the FAFSA. All records and other materials used in completing the application should be saved. This information may be needed later to prove the information submitted is correct.

After submitting the FAFSA, the student will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) which includes a summary of application information and the determination of the Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

This EFC is the result of computations involving the financial and non-financial data submitted on the application. The method of computation is applied to all students uniformly.

Students should review all the information on the SAR. If any changes are necessary, the student can make corrections online using his/her user name and password, or the Financial Aid Office can submit the corrections based on information provided.

If students meet all eligibility requirements, they will receive an award letter notifying them of the amount of their grant award and projected payment schedule.

Students who applied for financial aid the previous year may qualify to use a Renewal FAFSA. The student may access the Renewal Application online by using their username and password. On the renewal the student should correct his or her information and submit it to the processing center. The school will receive an Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR). The student will receive a SAR Information Acknowledgement by mail in three to five working days for their inspection. This ISIR will be used to determine the student's award.

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING THE AMOUNT OF STUDENT'S AWARD

Vantage employs the Federal Needs Analysis Methodology in assessing financial need and eligibility for Title IV Assistance. Federal aid is awarded based on the student Primary EFC (Estimated Family Contribution). The EFC is determined from the data provided on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and verified using data from federal tax returns and other supplemental documents.

The needs analysis formula is the starting point for determining eligibility for financial aid. Each component of the formula is made up of several factors:

Cost of Attendance (is set by the school)	minus (-) EFC (will appear on the Student Aid Report that student receives after submitting FAFSA)	equals (=) Financial Need
Tuition & Fees Room & Board Books & Supplies Misc. Expenses Travel	Parent Contribution Student Contribution from Assets Student Contribution from Earnings	Federal or State Grants Student Loans Payment Plans

Vantage Financial Aid Office sets a budget, or Cost of Attendance, for the academic year. Upon subtracting the EFC from the budget, the Financial Aid Officer is able to determine the student's Financial Need.

Standard Adjustments to Need Analysis

Standard Adjustments to Need Analysis are performed on a case by case basis by the Financial Aid Director with sufficient documentation. Examples of Standard Adjustments are private school tuition or high medical expenses. Need is determined by a formula developed and updated annually by the Federal Government.

METHODS OF DISTRIBUTING AID AMONG STUDENTS

Federal Aid

Federal Aid is distributed to students who complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and meet the eligibility criteria as further described within the application instructions. Students should visit www.FAFSA.ed.gov or the financial aid office for an application.

State Aid

State Aid is distributed to students who meet the eligibility criteria as described in the specific state aid program requirements. Students should visit the financial aid office for additional information on state aid programs available to enrolled students of the institution and application.

Institutional Aid (grants)

Vantage may offer various types of grants to students enrolled in specific programs of study, having met specific academic standards, etc. The number of grant recipients varies from year to year depending on the funding available and the number of eligible applicants. For additional information on available institutional grants students are encouraged to visit/contact the financial aid office at the campus.

Students are also encouraged to visit their library or research on the Internet as a source for additional grants and scholarship programs not administered or awarded by the institution.

METHODS OF DISBURSING FEDERAL STUDENT AID

Students should visit the Financial Aid Office to determine which of the three methods described below is used at the school.

Colleges Not Using Standard Academic Terms (“Non-Term”)

Financial aid is awarded based on an academic year. The disbursement of aid varies by the type of assistance.

For colleges not using standard academic terms, the Federal Pell Grant and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant -for those who qualify- is credited to the student’s account twice during the academic year. The accounts are credited at the beginning and at the mid-point of the academic year as measured in credits earned and weeks attended.

In order to receive federal loan proceeds the student (parent in the case of PLUS loans) must complete and sign a valid promissory note. A second disbursement of loan funds for the academic year is made after the student has completed half of their academic workload for the academic year and has reached the calendar midpoint. Once tuition and fee obligations charged by the institution have been met, the student may receive the excess amount of federal student aid that creates a credit on the account. A first year, first time borrower’s account will not be credited with Stafford loans earlier than 30 days after their first day of class and the student has completed a loan entrance interview.

Colleges Using Standard Academic Terms (“Standard Term”)

Financial aid is awarded based on an academic year as defined on a program-by-program basis at the institution. Disbursement of aid varies by the type of assistance.

For colleges using standard academic terms, a portion of the Federal Pell Grant, for those who qualify, will be paid to the student’s account during each payment period or term. (i.e., Quarters – three terms and Semesters – two terms)

In order to receive federal loan proceeds, the student (parent in the case of PLUS loans) must complete and sign a valid promissory note. The loan proceeds are used to satisfy the student’s tuition and fees for the academic year and are disbursed once per term. Once tuition and fee obligations charged by the institution have been met, the student may receive the excess amount of federal student aid that creates a credit on the account. A first year, first time borrower’s account will not be credited with Stafford loans earlier than 30 days after their first day of class and the student has completed a loan entrance interview.

Colleges Using Non-Standard Terms (“Non-Standard Term”)

Financial aid is awarded based on an academic year. The disbursement of aid varies by the type of assistance.

For colleges using non-standard academic terms, a portion of the Federal Pell Grant and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant -for those who qualify - will be paid to the student’s account during each payment period or term.

In order to receive federal loan proceeds the student (parent in the case of PLUS loans) must complete and sign a valid promissory note. The loan proceeds are used to satisfy the student’s tuition and fees for the academic year and are disbursed once per term. Once tuition and fee obligations charged by the institution have been met, the student may receive the excess amount of federal student aid that creates a

credit on the account. A first year, first time borrower's account will not be credited with Stafford loans earlier than 30 days after their first day of class and the student has completed a loan entrance interview.

BORROWER CONFIRMATION FOR LOANS IN A SUBSEQUENT ACADEMIC YEAR

Subsidized and Unsubsidized Master Promissory Note (MPN)

Students have the ability to obtain loan funds not exceeding the established loan limits through the Subsidized and Unsubsidized Federal Stafford Direct Loan program without having to sign a new Master Promissory Note for each academic year. The institution will notify the borrower of the loan amounts awarded through the Estimated Financial Aid Award Letter. If the borrower decides to decline or make adjustment to the type or the amount of the loan, they must contact the Financial Aid Office.

Parent PLUS Master Promissory Note (PLUS MPN)

For Parent PLUS loans made under the multi-year feature of the MPN, the regulations that govern the loan programs require the financial aid office at the school to document an active confirmation of Parent PLUS loan funds via an estimated award letter. The confirmation process is to provide a means for the parent borrower to accept or decline a PLUS loan made for a student's subsequent academic year. This assists in providing the parent borrower with greater control and understanding of PLUS loan debt.

Active confirmation can be completed via a signed award letter, and signed Parent Loan Data Form, or documented electronically.

STATEMENT REGARDING CREDIT BALANCES

Students with a credit balance on their account will receive a refund check from Vantage College. These checks will be available no later than 14 days after the credit appears on the student's account. Refund checks will not be disbursed until all tuition and fee charges are paid. Under no circumstances will the school retain a credit balance past an academic year.

Although Vantage College invoices the total cost of tuition and fees for a program of study upfront – we realize that payment for these costs might be paid in installments depending on the payment requirements of the funding agency (Title IV, Post 9/11 GI Bill, Vocational Rehab, etc.). Because of this we understand that the student will most likely owe the school a portion of these charges while they are enrolled and waiting for the payment requirements of the agencies involved are met.

Furthermore, while Vantage College invoices the total tuition and fees for its programs upfront – the tuition charges for programs that have more than one year of eligibility will be allocated between the two aid years based on the ratio of credits per aid year. So students in the Medical Assistant program – which is approved for 45 Department of Education Quarter Credits – will have 80% of the total tuition costs allocated to the first year, and 20% of the total tuition costs allocated to the second aid year. Likewise, students in the 46 ED Quarter Credit approved Network and Computer Systems Administration (NCSA) program will have 78% of the total program tuition allocated to the first year and 22% allocated to the second year.

While it is not the policy of Vantage College to ever retain credit balances past 14 days, if a student wishes the school to retain such a balance s/he may submit a written request to the school's student account office. However, once again – credit balances can never be retained past the end of an academic year.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF FEDERAL WORK STUDY EMPLOYMENT AS PART OF THE FINANCIAL AID PACKAGE (currently not available at Vantage College)

The Federal Work Study (FWS) program provides jobs to undergraduate and graduate students to assist them in meeting their educational expenses. To qualify for Federal Work Study program funds, the student must meet the eligibility requirements for Federal Student Aid. The amount of FWS for which a student is eligible depends upon:

- Degree of demonstrated financial need
- Availability of FWS funds at the school
- Availability of jobs and scheduling which do not conflict with the student's class schedule

Federal Work Study jobs may be located on or off campus. The school may set the work schedule. The financial aid administrator will take into consideration need, class schedule, health, and academic progress prior to arranging a job and assigning work hours. The school must inform the student of the terms and condition of employment that are part of the financial aid package.

Undergraduate students will be paid on an hourly basis. They are paid at least the current federal minimum wage and at least once a month.

If FWS is part of the student's aid package, they will receive notification via the Job Description and other notification which lists the amount of the award scheduled for the student. See the Federal Work-Study section above.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH STUDENT RECEIVE FEDERAL LOANS

The Federal Loan programs provide funds to undergraduate and graduate students to assist them in meeting their educational expenses. To qualify for Federal Loan program funds, the student must meet the eligibility requirements for Federal Student Aid as well as the loan program specific terms and conditions specified below:

Direct Loan (DL)

- Students must be enrolled at least half-time during the period of enrollment to retain their eligibility for DL program funds. Students whose enrollment status is below half-time are not eligible for DL program funds. If eligibility is lost due to being enrolled less than half-time, a student can regain eligibility if enrolled at least half-time during a subsequent period of enrollment.
- A student who is borrowing a loan for the first time is required to participate in loan entrance counseling prior to the first disbursement of the loan. The first disbursement of a loan cannot be made earlier than 30 days after the start of the term or period of enrollment.
- Financial Aid Administrators may not perform credit checks on students in connection with awarding them DL program funds, except in cases of PLUS loans.
- A student borrower who is in default on an FSA loan is not eligible for additional DL loan funds unless eligibility is regained.

Perkins Loan (if applicable)

Students should refer to the school catalog for determining whether Perkins loan funds are available at the institution.

- Undergraduate and Graduate level students who demonstrate exceptional need (as defined by the institution) have priority to available Perkins Loan funds.

- A student borrower who is in default on an FSA loan is not eligible for Perkins loan funds unless eligibility is regained.
- Unlike the DL program, a student does not have to be enrolled at least half time to be eligible to receive a Perkins loan.

NOTICE OF FEDERAL STUDENT FINANCIAL AID PENALTIES FOR DRUG LAW VIOLATIONS

This notice provides information on the penalties associated with drug-related offenses under section 484(r) of the Higher Education Act (HEA). It also provides notice on how to regain eligibility after conviction of a drug related offense.

Students are ineligible for Title IV federal financial aid funds if convicted of an offense involving the possession of an illegal substance that occurred during a period of enrollment for which the students were receiving federal student aid (grants, loans and/or work-study). The ineligibility period is:

- First Offense = 1 year
- Second Offense = 2 years
- Third Offense = Indefinite

For convictions involving sale of an illegal substance, the ineligibility period is:

- First Offense = 2 years
- Second Offense = Indefinite

A student may regain eligibility by successfully completing a drug rehabilitation program that complies with criteria established by the U.S. Department of Education and includes two unannounced drug tests, or if the conviction is reversed, set aside, or otherwise rendered nugatory.

If appropriate, report any convictions involving an illegal substance on question #23 of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Students are required to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress while enrolled at the campus. Failure to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress could result in ineligibility for federal student aid. The Satisfactory Academic Progress information is contained in the school catalog.

Criteria for continued student eligibility under each program

Students must be in good standing and making satisfactory progress according to the institutional standards before receiving Title IV assistance. Good standing means that the student is capable of enrollment or continued enrollment. Initially this means that the student is admissible to an educational program as demonstrated by high school diploma or GED. Later this means that the student is performing well enough in terms of progress, grades, and the institutional attendance policy to continue enrollment. Satisfactory Progress is monitored and evaluated every twelve weeks; SAP will also be evaluated at the end of each payment period. When an interval spans a period of non-enrollment, progress will be assessed at the point where attendance recommences. Financial Aid Officer could refer to “Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy” in Vantage’s Student Catalog for further information, if necessary.

Requirements for satisfactory progress

Satisfactory progress means a student must be proceeding in a positive manner toward fulfilling certificate requirements in a specific length of time.

To be considered making Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), a student must attend at least 80% of the scheduled class hours on a cumulative basis during each payment period and to have a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 by graduation. If the student's grade point average is below 2.0, then the student will be issued an academic warning. Students who have been issued an academic warning are still eligible to receive Federal Financial Aid. If a student is issued a financial aid warning the student, campus director and the director of financial aid will develop an academic plan to insure that the student improves their academic standing. The student can continue to receive Title IV Aid while they are under financial aid warning. However, if a subsequent payment period evaluation reveals that the student is still not making satisfactory academic progress the student will be placed on financial aid suspension and will not be eligible for further Federal Financial Aid disbursements unless an appeal has been made and accepted. A grade of "I" is regarded as unsatisfactory academic progress for the purpose of Title IV aid administration. The student is responsible for tuition and fees charged during a period of suspension.

Criteria by which the student who has failed to maintain satisfactory progress may re-establish his/her eligibility for financial assistance

If a student who is previously not making satisfactory progress and is found to be making satisfactory academic progress towards his GPA and attendance when he is evaluated, the warning and/or suspension will be removed and s/he will be eligible for further Federal Financial Aid disbursements.

FINANCIAL AID LOAN MANAGEMENT

Each first-time student borrower is required to attend/complete a loan entrance interview conducted individually, in a group, or online. The interview will include an explanation of the use of a Master Promissory Note (MPN), the importance of the repayment obligation, a description of the consequences of default, sample repayment schedules, information in reference to borrower's rights and responsibilities, as well as other terms and conditions.

Upcoming graduates, students who officially withdraw, or students who cease to attend at least half-time will be required to complete/attend the exit counseling session. Students who leave school without attending an exit counseling session will receive an exit counseling package mailed by the campus. Exit counseling addresses topics such as the requirement to repay the loan, repayment plans, updating contact and demographic information, the consequences of default. Please see The Financial Aid Loan Exit Counseling section for additional information.

Loan Repayment Obligation and Repayment Options

Students who receive federal student loans sign a Master Promissory Note (MPN) which states the student is obligated to repay the student loan funds regardless of the student's graduation, withdrawal from school, or the student's inability to obtain employment.

The student loan program offers students many different repayment options. Students are responsible for selecting the appropriate payment plan to suit their needs. The school's Financial Aid Office is available to review the different repayment options.

If at any time a student becomes delinquent on a loan, it is the student's responsibility to contact the school or lender to determine what options are available to the student.

SAMPLE LOAN REPAYMENT SCHEDULE

Non-Consolidation Borrowers ¹								
Debt	Standard		Extended Fixed		Extended Graduated		Graduated	
	Per Month	Total	Per Month	Total	Per Month	Total	Per Month	Total
\$5000	\$58	\$6,904	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$40	\$7,275
\$10,000	\$115	\$13,809	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$79	\$14,550
\$25,000	\$288	\$34,524	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$198	\$36,375

Debt	Income Contingent ² Income=\$25,000				Income-Based ² Income=\$25,000			
	Single		Married/HOH		Single		Married/HOH	
\$5000	\$37	\$8,347	\$36	\$11,088	N/A	N/A	\$39	\$8,005
\$10,000	\$75	\$16,699	\$71	\$22,158	\$110	\$13,672	\$39	\$16,081
\$25,000	\$186	\$41,748	\$178	\$55,440	\$110	\$45,014	\$39	\$60,754

Source: Federal Student Aid, Exit Counseling Guide

¹ Payments were calculated using a fixed interest rate of 6.8% for Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans disbursed on or after July 1, 2006

² Assumes a 5% annual income growth (Census Bureau)

The Financial Aid Loan Entrance Counseling

The following information will be included in the Loan Entrance Counseling, which will be presented to a first-time student borrower prior to the first disbursement of loan funds.

- Explanation and use of the Master Promissory Note (MPN)
- Effect of accepting the loan on eligibility for other aid
- Seriousness and importance of the repayment obligation
- Option of the borrower to pay interest on Unsubsidized Stafford and Graduate PLUS loans while in school
- Interest accrual process and interest capitalization when a borrower elects not to pay interest or if the interest is not paid by the US Department of Education
- Definition of half-time enrollment
- Consequences of not maintaining at least half-time enrollment
- Importance of contacting the appropriate office at the school if the student plans to withdraw before completing the academic program to allow the school to provide exit counseling to the borrower
- Obligation to repay the loans even if: the borrower does not complete the program or does not complete the program within the regular time for completion, is unable to find employment, is dissatisfied with the school/program, or does not receive the services purchased from the school
- The importance of repayment and the consequences of default, including adverse credit reports, federal offset, and other federal delinquent debt collection procedures and litigation
- Sample monthly repayment amounts based on a range of levels of indebtedness or the average cumulative indebtedness of other loan borrowers within the same academic program as the borrower
- Information regarding the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) and how a borrower can access and monitor his or her loan records
- Name and contact information of the person the student may contact with questions regarding rights and responsibilities or loan terms and conditions

The Financial Aid Loan Exit Counseling

Students are required to attend a Financial Aid Loan Exit Counseling session prior to graduating or shortly before the student ceases enrollment of at least half-time study. Students who seek withdrawal from the campus should see the Financial Aid Office to obtain exit counseling. Several topics presented at the entrance counseling session are again presented at the exit counseling. Exit counseling is required for all graduated, withdrawn, or dismissed students prior to exiting the institution as well when a student ceases to attend at least half-time. If a student leaves school or chooses to postpone their education, the student should meet with a Financial Aid Administrator to understand the financial impact of this decision and attend loan exit counseling.

Exit counseling includes the following information:

- Explanation of all repayment plans available
- Comparative analysis of the features of each type of repayment plan, including average projected monthly payments and the difference in interest and total payments
- Explanation of the terms and conditions to obtain full or partial loan forgiveness or discharge
- Explanation of the terms and conditions the borrower may obtain a deferment or forbearance
- Debt management strategies to assist the student in successful loan repayment
- Information regarding the average anticipated monthly repayment amount based on the student loan borrower's actual indebtedness or the average indebtedness of student borrowers in the same academic program receiving the same types of loans
- A review of the use of the Master Promissory Note (MPN) and the student's obligation to repay the loan
- Explanation of the student's responsibility to repay the loan even if the student did not complete the program, did not complete the program within the regular completion time for that program, is unable to obtain employment, or is dissatisfied with the education received
- Explanation regarding the consequences of default, including adverse credit reports, federal offset, other federal delinquent debt collection procedures and litigation under federal law
- Effects of loan consolidation, including the effect on total interest and fees to be paid, length of the repayment term, effect on borrower benefits on underlying loans (grace periods, deferment, loan forgiveness, and loan discharge), option to prepay or change repayment plans, and how borrower benefits may differ between lenders
- Explanation of the tax benefits available to the student
- Information concerning the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) and how the student can utilize NSLDS to access his or her records
- Information regarding the availability of the Student Loan Ombudsman's Office

In addition, the Financial Aid Office is responsible to collect the following information as part of the exit counseling and provide the information to the Secretary of Education within 60 days of receipt:

- Name
- Address
- Social Security Number
- References
- Driver's License Number and State
- Expected Permanent Address
- Name and address of next-of-kin
- Name and address of the student's employer or expected employer

Loan Deferments for Borrowers

Students should visit the Financial Aid office for the terms and conditions under which students receiving federal education loans may obtain a deferment for repaying student loan debt.

Loan Deferments for Certain Individuals

Loan deferment terms and conditions are further defined for those serving in the Peace Corps; under the Domestic Volunteer Service Act; and as a volunteer for a tax-exempt organization of demonstrated effectiveness in the field of community service. These individuals should visit the Financial Aid office for additional information.

NATIONAL STUDENT LOAN DATA SYSTEM - NSLDS

National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) is the U.S. Department of Education's (ED's) central database for student aid. Student financial aid information is submitted to the NSLDS. NSLDS receives data from schools, guaranty agencies, the Direct Loan program, the Pell Grant program, and other ED programs. NSLDS Student Access provides a centralized, integrated view of Federal Student Aid Loans and grants so that recipients of funds from these programs can access and inquire about the Federal Student Aid loans and/or Grant data. Once a student's data is reported to NSLDS, this site and all of the student's information contained within is accessible to Financial Aid Administrators, and Guarantee Agencies. In addition, students may access their own financial aid information by visiting this site. All users must sign-in and be an authorized user. To access the site, visit www.nslds.ed.gov.

FEDERAL STUDENT AID OMBUDSMAN NOTIFICATION

Students should contact the Financial Aid Administrator at the institution who is always ready to assist with any questions or concerns regarding Federal Direct Subsidized or Unsubsidized Loans.

If a situation exists that a Financial Aid Administrator cannot resolve, students should follow procedures in the school catalog regarding "problem resolution."

In addition, the U.S. Department of Education's Office of the Ombudsman for student loan issues is available. The ombudsman resolves disputes from a neutral and independent viewpoint. The Office of Student Financial Assistance Ombudsman will informally research borrowers' issues and suggest solutions to resolve. Student borrowers can contact the Office of the Ombudsman by:

Via Email: fsaombudsman@ed.gov

Via Online Assistance: www.ombudsman.ed.gov

Via Toll-Free Telephone: 1.877.557.2575 *Via Fax:* 1.202.275.0549

Via Mail: U.S. Department of Education, FSA Ombudsman, 830 First Street N.E., Washington, D.C. 20202

CONSUMER INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (ED)

The U.S. Department of Education has various websites available to students and financial aid staff that provide information regarding the regulations, requirements, and application for Federal Student Aid. There is *no* user fee for using ED Financial Aid sites.

U.S. Department of Education: www.ed.gov

Applying for Federal Student Aid: www.fafsa.ed.gov

Information for Students: www.studentaid.ed.gov, and www.college.gov.

Information for Financial Aid Professionals and Schools: www.ifap.ed.gov, and www.fsa4schools.ed.gov.