Summer Financial Aid

The summer session is considered the final term of the financial aid award year. Federal aid programs have a maximum amount of aid that can be received in an academic year. For example, a dependent freshman with 0-29 semester hours may borrow only $5,500 in Direct Loans for the entire academic year (12 months - fall, spring and summer). Therefore, summer aid is limited. If students would like an estimate of their summer financial aid, they may contact the Office of Student Financial Aid.

Summer Aid Days

If you have any students thinking about taking summer classes, encourage them to stop by our office for Summer Aid Days, March 9 and 10. We will help them determine what types of financial aid are available for the summer and assist with their summer budgeting. They can also stop by any time before or after our Summer Aid Days for assistance in estimating their summer aid options.

To be Eligible for Financial Aid for Summer a Student Must:

- Have submitted the 2009-2010 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by June 1.
- Complete and submit the 2010 Summer Financial Aid Application (available online March 10).
- Be enrolled at least half-time during the summer—five credits for undergraduate students and four credits for graduate students. Audited courses, guided independent study and Camp Adventure do not count toward enrollment for financial aid.
- Be admitted to a program leading to a degree. Non-degree students are ineligible for financial aid.
- Not be on Financial Aid Academic Progress Suspension or Registrar Academic Suspension.
- Not be in default on any educational loan and not owe any refund on a grant or loan at any institution.
Different Ways Students Can Finance Summer Courses

- Additional Pell Grant
- Increased loan eligibility due to grade level change at the completion of the spring semester
- Unused funding from fall/spring semesters
- TEACH Grant
- Employment
- Additional loan possibilities such as private alternative loans

When are Summer Funds Disbursed?

- Financial aid is credited to students’ accounts the week prior to the beginning of their first summer course. If excess funds remain in their account, a refund will be direct deposited into their designated bank account.
- If a student drops or withdraws from classes after receiving funds or if they receive additional funds that were not reported when they applied, they may be required to repay all or a portion of their funds.

Summer Consortium Agreement (Studying at Another Institution)

Consortium agreements are completed for students who are attending more than one institution part-time, but need to be considered full-time for financial aid or insurance purposes.

During any fall or spring semester, students must be enrolled at the University of Northern Iowa for equal or greater credits than they are enrolled at their host institution in order to meet the requirements of the consortium. This requirement is waived during the summer since students may be taking courses at a community college or another institution closer to their hometown where they will be spending their summer. Consortia during the academic year are limited to ONE throughout a student’s undergraduate career. However, summer consortia are not subject to this limit.

If students are considering enrolling at another institution during fall or spring semester while also attending UNI or enrolling at another institution only for the summer, they should stop in the Office of Student Financial Aid to meet with a Peer Counselor about completing a Consortium Agreement.
Summer Study Abroad

Students who are interested in studying abroad during the summer and who need financial aid should call the Office of Student Financial Aid to set up an appointment with a Financial Aid Counselor. The Study Abroad Office will provide a Program Cost Sheet that the student should bring to the meeting. It is also helpful if a student has had a chance to discuss with his or her parents how they plan to fund the Study Abroad experience (e.g. savings, loans, etc.). Students who have not yet borrowed all of their fall/spring student loans will have remaining loan eligibility that can be used during the summer. In addition, there may be some limited grant monies available for summer enrollment. However, for most students financial aid for summer Study Abroad will consist of additional Parent PLUS loan eligibility and/or private education loans.

Students must be enrolled at least half-time (5 hours for undergraduates, 4 hours for graduates) in order to be eligible for federal loans during the summer. However, there are private education lenders who will make loans to students who are enrolled less than half-time. Once students are enrolled in Study Abroad for summer, they should complete and submit the Summer Financial Aid Application found on the Office of Student Financial Aid homepage www.uni.edu/finaid/.

It is especially important for students who are studying abroad to insure that they have set up Direct Deposit for their financial aid refund checks since the student may already be abroad when their refund credits to their account. If Direct Deposit is not set up, refund checks will be held at the Cashiers Office which may be very inconvenient since the students would not likely be on campus to pick them up.

Private Loan Counseling—Big Success!

Two years ago the Office of Student Financial Aid started providing Private Loan Counseling for all first-time borrowers of private loans. The purpose of private loan counseling is to inform students about loans and increase their awareness of other financial aid options. Students are required to complete an information package including budget information, loan terms, and debt-to-income ratio upon repayment.

Over the last two years the number of students taking private loans has decreased 73% from 2,159 to 578 students. The loan volume has decreased by 79% from $15.3 to $3.2 million and the overall student debt upon graduation decreased by $53. **This is the first time that student loan indebtedness has declined for UNI students.**
Student Employment Provides Unexpected Opportunities

Student employment offers many unexpected opportunities for students. Nancy Boleyn, retired assistant director of student aid at UNI, was honored at the Iowa Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators Fall Conference for 22 years of service. During the conference it was identified that many aid administrators in Iowa were once student employees at UNI and trained by Nancy. Those in attendance are pictured below.

Back row (left to right): Todd Brown, director of school services, Iowa College Student Aid Commission; Tim Bakula, associate director of student aid, UNI; Chris Keahi, Iowa Donor Network.

Second row (left to right): Jen Sassman, director of student aid, Wartburg; John Holland, Iowa College Access Network; Del Jaramillo, retired financial aid counselor, UNI; Renae Mulder, customer service specialist, UNI; Joyce Morrow, director of student aid, UNI.

First row (left to right): Shelly Brimeyer, assistant director of financial planning, Loras College; Christine Ditter, associate director of financial planning, Drake; Juanita Wright, assistant director of student aid, UNI.

Seated: Nancy Boleyn, retired assistant director of student aid, UNI.

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Student Employment Does More Than Help Students Find Jobs

- Coordinates federal, state, institutional and Community Service Learning (CSL) on and off-campus work study programs.
- Processes approximately 800 student employment approvals monthly.
- Communicates with 173 organizations/departments regarding policy/procedure updates.
- Ensures all pre-employment paperwork (more than 7,000 forms) is completed correctly in accordance with federal, state and university guidelines.
- Audits and reconciles bi-weekly payroll reports for more than 2,400 students.
- Creates and distributes monthly billing statements to off-campus CSL organizations.
- Trains more than 100 supervisors annually.
- Manages online student job board of 100-250 jobs at any given time.
- Maintains work study waiting lists.
- Plans and facilitates National Student Employment Week.
- Creates student employment publications and website materials.
- Gives presentations to various groups such as Jump Start, Summer Orientation, etc.
UNIversity Scholarship Application
(former “Common Scholarship Application”)
Calendar for Updating

**Early March**
- Departments provide their College Scholarship Administrative Team (CSAT) requests for revisions to application and reports.

**March**
- CSAT provides revision requests to the Office of Student Financial Aid.

**April**
- Financial Aid finalizes revisions with CSAT. **Due to new system implementation, no additional revisions may be made once information is given to ITS.**

**May/June**
- ITS updates application.

**July**
- Financial Aid and ITS update reports.
- Testing of application.

**September 1**
- Application goes live.

Office of Student Financial Aid Scholarship Administrative Team is composed of Juanita Wright, Evie Waack and Denise Parks.

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Juanita Wright receives
**Diversity Matters Award**

This award is designed to acknowledge and honor the efforts of those who have significantly contributed to enhancing diversity at UNI. For more than 34 years, Juanita Wright has served as a recruiter, mentor and counselor for countless minority students. With her caring attitude and big heart, she goes the extra mile for students, assisting them in all aspects of college life. She helped create the Jump Start Program and also helped with planning and event implementation for recruitment programs in Texas and Indiana. By her words and her example, she is a true advocate for multicultural students.
Additional Pell Grant Eligibility

The Federal Pell Grant is awarded to the financially neediest of students. The Department of Education has approved that Pell eligible students have the ability to receive a second Pell Grant within one academic year. Therefore, a student can receive a full Pell Grant year-round (i.e. the academic year and in the summer). To qualify for the second Pell Grant the student must be enrolled at least half-time and be progressing to the next grade level. Pell Grants are prorated with enrollment.

Mission

The Mission of the Office of Student Financial Aid is to provide access to financial resources in a fair, sensitive and confidential manner; to inform and educate students and families about their financial options; and to continually improve services so students may take full advantage of their educational opportunities. The Office of Student Financial Aid is committed to promoting and maintaining integrity, accuracy and timeliness in compliance with applicable law, regulations and policies that govern federal, state, institutional, and private funds in order to serve the maximum number of UNI students.

Newsletter Archives

Visit www.uni.edu/finaid/facultyandstaff.shtml for prior Facts for Faculty Newsletters.

Spring 2009

- Academic Progress Requirements
- TEACH Grant Information
- Electronic Student Employment Approval Form (SEAF) Information
- Staff Picture

Fall 2009

- Scholarship Administration
- New Student Employment Requirements
- Why Financial Aid Has Not Paid Out
- Charts—Year-End Data