

Boston University Financial Assistance

2009/2010 Guide to Your Metropolitan College Financial Aid Award

This guide is provided to you as a recipient of federal, state, and/or merit-based financial aid to help you understand the terms and conditions associated with the financial aid listed on the enclosed award notification. If you have any questions, please contact us. BU Financial Assistance is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday.

How Financial Aid Awards Are Determined

Eligibility for federal funds is based on information reported on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and formulas legislated by Congress. An Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is determined by these formulas and is subtracted from the total educational costs for the academic year to determine your calculated financial aid eligibility, which is your **maximum** eligibility. Total financial aid from all sources cannot exceed this amount.

How to Accept Your Award

We encourage you to accept the enclosed award offer online at www.bu.edu/finaid. If you do not have online access, return the paper copy of the enclosed award notification after placing an "X" in the "YES" column of each award you wish to accept and an "X" in the "NO" column of each award you wish to decline. Make sure to complete and sign the statements on the reverse side of the notification letter and return one copy by the deadline indicated. Accepting your award offer affirms that you understand and agree to the terms and conditions specified in this guide.

Federal and State Financial Aid Programs

One or more of the following awards may be included on your notification.

Federal Pell Grant: A grant from the federal government for low-income students to promote access to post-secondary education. Federal formulas are used for calculating the Expected Family Contribution (EFC). Once application eligibility has been verified, the EFC is used to determine Pell Grant eligibility.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG): A grant program funded by a federal allocation and a matching contribution from Boston University. The University selects recipients in accordance with federal regulations, which stipulate that FSEOG be awarded to students with the greatest financial eligibility, usually Pell Grant recipients.

State Scholarship/Grant: A grant from a student's state of residence. Any amount indicated on an initial Financial Aid Award notification is estimated on the basis of information reported on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). These funds are not guaranteed, and the student is responsible for completing all state application process requirements.

Federal Direct Stafford Loan (Subsidized): A need-based student loan, which must be repaid. The maximum annual loan is \$3,500 for freshmen; \$4,500 for sophomores; and \$5,500 for juniors and seniors. The cumulative undergraduate maximum subsidized loan limit is \$31,000, of which \$23,000 may be subsidized. The Subsidized Direct Stafford Loan interest rate is fixed at 5.6 percent for the life of the loan. Repayment begins six (6) months after a student ceases to be enrolled at least half time. The amount of your loan disbursement may be reduced by an origination fee. For information about current origination fees and up-front rebates, go to www.bu.edu/finaid and follow the links to "Direct Stafford Loan Terms."

Federal Direct Stafford Loan (Unsubsidized): A loan, which must be repaid, available to students who do not qualify for subsidized loans on the basis of financial eligibility. Eligibility is the difference between the cost of education and total financial aid (including any subsidized loan) up to the annual maximum. The annual base amount allowable (for both subsidized and unsubsidized programs, singularly or combined) is as noted above. However, most dependent undergraduates are eligible for an additional \$2,000 per academic year above the annual maximum. Independent undergraduates are eligible for additional amounts based on their class year: \$6,000 for freshmen and sophomores; and \$7,000 for juniors and seniors. For more information about the \$2,000 additional Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, go to www.bu.edu/finaid and follow the links to "Direct Stafford Loan Terms." The Unsubsidized Direct Stafford Loan interest rate is fixed at 6.8 percent for the life of the loan. Interest is charged during all periods and starts to accrue immediately, although it may be capitalized (added to principal) and paid during the repayment period.

*A **Master Promissory Note** for both subsidized and unsubsidized loans must be completed promptly to ensure receipt of funds by the beginning of the semester. First-time borrowers must also fulfill the **entrance counseling** requirement. Both of these requirements may be completed online at www.bu.edu/finaid. Entering students are expected to complete both requirements before they begin classes.*

Tuition Remission: Full-time Boston University employees, employees' dependent children, and employees' spouses may be eligible to receive tuition remission benefits. If you indicated on your financial aid application that you expect to receive tuition benefits through Boston University or through another institution, *our estimate of those benefits, based on the information you reported to us*, may be included on the enclosed award notification. Amounts are not guaranteed and Boston University employees should advise BU Financial Assistance if the actual benefit amount approved by BU Human Resources will differ from that stated on the Financial Aid Award notification.

How to Maintain Your Eligibility

Terms and conditions of awards are subject to change in subsequent years.

1. **Maintain satisfactory academic progress.** To be eligible for renewal of any financial aid, you must complete at least 75 percent of credits attempted in the prior academic year. To be eligible for *federal and state funds*, students must meet the following grade point average (GPA) requirements: after completion of one academic year, a minimum GPA of 1.70; after completion of two years, a *cumulative* GPA of at least 2.00. Enrollment during summer terms or at other institutions and courses not completed by June 1, 2009 are not considered in these determinations.

Awards are usually offered for the full academic year, and academic progress is reviewed at the end of each academic year. However, spring semester financial aid will be canceled, and spring semester loans (federal, state, and private) will not be certified if a full-time student fails to earn at least a 1.00 grade point index (GPI) or fails to successfully complete at least 8 credits during the fall semester. Students who withdraw during the fall semester after the beginning of classes will not be eligible for federal/state financial aid until they have completed at least 12 credits, with a minimum GPA of 2.00, unless extenuating circumstances are documented. Eligibility for federal funds is limited to six (6) years of full-time undergraduate enrollment.

2. **Apply for financial aid every year.** Application materials for the 2010/2011 academic year will be available in January 2010. Renewal of financial aid is contingent upon your meeting all eligibility criteria. The type and amount of future aid will depend on your calculated financial eligibility and available funds. Academic requirements for renewal of *federal and state funds* are stated above.
3. **Fulfill your financial obligation to the University.** Future aid applications will *not* be considered if you owe a balance. Thus, you must promptly pay any remaining balance owed.

Metropolitan College Merit-Based Scholarships

Students wishing to be considered for federal and/or state financial aid in addition to their merit scholarship must submit both the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Declaration of Intended Enrollment available at www.bu.edu/finaid.

Community Scholars Academic Scholarship: A half-tuition scholarship that can be used for up to 12 undergraduate credits in Metropolitan College per semester. Students must maintain a 3.00 cumulative grade point average to retain eligibility. The amount of this award may have been estimated based on the *Declaration of Intended Enrollment* and is subject to change if enrollment changes.

Scholarship for Parents: A half-tuition scholarship that can be used for up to 12 undergraduate credits in Metropolitan College per semester. Students must maintain a 3.00 cumulative grade point average to retain eligibility. The amount of this award may have been estimated based on the Declaration of Intended Enrollment and is subject to change if enrollment changes.

Osher Reentry Scholarship: A one-time scholarship that may be used for tuition only. The award may be split over two semesters if the student registers for less than eight credits per semester. This scholarship is not renewable.

What If I Withdraw or Take a Leave of Absence from the University?

Federal aid will be adjusted according to federal regulations, which stipulate that students who withdraw or take a leave of absence before 60 percent of the semester expires retain aid in proportion to the percentage of the semester for which they were enrolled. Merit based scholarships will be adjusted according to Metropolitan College policy. The student is expected to pay any remaining balance, since the student assumes primary responsibility for paying educational costs.

Notification of withdrawal and requests for a leave of absence should be made in writing to the *University Service Center, 881 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215, 617-358-1818, fax: 617-358-1819, www.bu.edu/usc.*

Additional Documentation

In some instances, additional documentation may be required to finalize your award and credit funds to your student account. You will be notified if additional documentation is required.