



Boston University School of Social Work

Information About Your Financial Aid Award

Important information about your award is included in this document. It explains the terms and conditions associated with federal and/or merit-based financial aid. For additional information please visit the Boston University School of Social Work (SSW) financial aid webpage at <http://www.bu.edu/ssw/admissions/msw/msw-financial-aid/>.

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan Included in Financial Aid Package

The Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan included in your award will appear as “tentative”. This is because your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) must be reviewed. Loans, unlike scholarships, must be repaid. You can find a loan repayment estimator at <https://www.salliemae.com/college-planning/tools/student-loan-repayment-calculator/>. Your actual Unsubsidized Loan credit will be less than the amount you borrow because of an origination fee charged by the U.S. government. You may, by submitting your updated Financial Assistance Statement, or an email to the SSW Financial Aid Office, decline the loan, decrease the amount you were offered, or increase the amount up to the maximum of \$20,500. If you request an increase in the amount, you will be notified of your eligibility for that amount. You can find more information about loans (including credit-based loans) at <http://www.bu.edu/ssw/admissions/msw/msw-financial-aid/>.

Loans are disbursed to your Student Account in two equal halves at the beginning of each semester or summer session.

Entrance Counseling and Master Promissory Note

Students who receive a federal loan, including the Federal Unsubsidized Loan and the Federal Graduate PLUS Loan, are required to complete the Entrance Counseling and Master Promissory Note for both before they borrow a loan for the first time as a graduate student at BU. These requirements can be completed at www.studentaid.gov.

Additional Information for Loan Processing

Since the Federal Unsubsidized Loans are from funds provided by the federal government, we must comply with the rules and regulations they have set forth. This means that when we review your FAFSA data, there are times when the information you provide must be updated/corrected, or you may also need to provide additional information, like a federal tax return, citizenship documentation, etc. Your timely response and submission of complete, accurate information is the key to helping us process your financial aid in a timely manner. Please read all requests and instructions carefully to provide the most complete information as soon as possible.

SSW Merit-Based Scholarships

Scholarship awards for incoming students are based on a combination of factors taken from the admissions application and rated by the faculty readers. Those factors include merit/academic performance, experience, recommendations, personal statement, and commitment to diversity, equity, and social justice. Merit-based scholarship award decisions for continuing students are based on the SSW cumulative GPA and the availability of funds. Scholarships are disbursed to your Student Account in two equal halves at the beginning of each semester. You can find more information about SSW Scholarships at <http://www.bu.edu/ssw/admissions/msw/msw-financial-aid/scholarships/> under “Scholarships”. **Due to the number of eligible students and limited resources, kindly note that SSW scholarship funds are generally awarded to assist with tuition costs and do not provide for living expenses. Therefore, total SSW scholarship awards cannot exceed the amount of full tuition.**

Scholarship/Stipend Funds From Donors

In part, scholarship/stipend funding at the School of Social Work is made possible by the gifts made by generous donors. If you are the recipient of a scholarship or stipend funded by a donor, you may be contacted to meet with the donor(s) and/or to write a thank you note. Sometimes these meetings/notes are the determining factor that keeps the donors giving or even increasing their gifts. Your response when contacted is greatly appreciated.

Maintaining Eligibility for Financial Aid

In order to maintain eligibility for financial aid you must:

1. Apply for financial aid each year. The SSW application should be available in February or March of the academic year. Renewal of financial aid offered your first year is contingent upon meeting all eligibility criteria as follows: You must maintain at least a 3.0 GPA, remain in the same enrollment status at the School of Social Work as you were when awarded, and maintain continuous enrollment in consecutive semesters. This award may be rescinded if you defer your admission to the program, switch to part-time status (if full-time), take a leave of absence, or withdraw from the program. The type and amount of future awards will depend on your calculated financial eligibility, your cumulative GPA, and the availability of funds. Decisions for continuing students are made by mid- June. Part time is 6-11 credits and full time is 11-18 credits.
2. Inform the SSW Financial Aid Office of any changes in your name, address, enrollment status, or if you withdraw or take a leave of absence from the School.
3. Maintain satisfactory academic progress (SAP). You can find specific information about SAP at [SAP-Policy-BUSSW.pdf](#)
4. Provide all information requested by the Financial Aid Office that is required to process your financial aid, including materials needed for a process called Verification, which is verification of the information you provide on the FAFSA.
5. Inform SSW of any additional awards you receive since federal regulations require that your total financial aid does not exceed your calculated financial eligibility. If your total aid from all sources exceeds your calculated financial aid eligibility, a reduction in your financial aid may be required.
6. Fulfill your financial obligations to the University. Financial aid cannot be processed if you have a balance due from a prior semester.

Summer Financial Aid

Some students take up to 11 credit hours during the summer term. Courses are charged at the current per-credit rate whether you are full-time or part-time during the academic year. SSW generally does not award scholarship funds in the summer. Students taking at least 6 credit hours over the summer can borrow a summer Federal Unsubsidized Loan to cover their costs. Kindly note that there is an annual Federal Unsubsidized Loan limit of \$20,500. Your yearly loan period begins when the current academic year FAFSA data is first used to process your loan. For example, if your 2024/2025 FAFSA is used to process your Summer 2024 loan, that starts your 2024/2025 annual borrowing. The amount you borrow for the summer will be deducted from the \$20,500 annual limit and you can then borrow the remaining amount, which will be split equally between the Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 semesters.

Federal Work Study

SSW has limited Federal Work-Study funds to award to eligible full-time students. Students are paid hourly for working a specific number of hours per week in a position within or outside of the School of Social Work. Please see http://www.bu.edu/ssw/admissions/msw/msw-financial-aid/financial_aid/ under "Other Sources of Assistance".

Advanced Standing Students

The Advanced Standing Program tuition is separate for the academic year (the current full-time tuition is charged from September to May) and the summer (8 additional credits are charged at the current per credit rate). If you were awarded a scholarship, it was for the fall and spring semesters only. The School generally does not award scholarship

funds for summer term enrollment. Students taking 6 or more credits over the summer can apply for a summer Federal Unsubsidized Loan.

Withdrawal or Leave of Absence From the University

SSW students who want to withdraw or take a leave of absence from the University must file an official Withdrawal/Leave of Absence Form with the SSW Director of Student Services, Off-Campus Program Directors, or the Online Program Administrator. Any financial aid received will be adjusted accordingly.

Financial Aid For Dual-Degree Students

SSW financial aid is awarded to dual-degree students only while SSW is their host school. SSW is considered your host school when the majority of your credits in a semester are from SSW courses. If you are beginning your program in your other school this fall, any SSW financial aid that you were offered will not be available to you until the semester you enroll in the majority of your credits at SSW.

Contact Us

If you have any questions about this or any other financial aid information, please feel free to contact the Financial Aid Office:

Ina Frye

Senior Manager of Financial Aid

Boston University School of Social Work
Financial Aid Office
264 Bay State Road
Boston, MA 02215

Phone: 617-353-1333

Fax: 617-353-5612

sswfa@bu.edu