

GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY®



**2020-21**  
**Financial Assistance**  
**Information**



# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

The purpose of financial aid is to provide funding resources to students who otherwise would be unable to pursue a postsecondary education. The primary responsibility for meeting University costs lies with students and their families.

## General Eligibility Requirements

To receive federal Title IV financial assistance, all students must be admitted to the University, be enrolled in a degree Program of Study, be in good academic standing, and be making satisfactory academic progress. Students who are [Accepted with Specifications](#) are eligible for federal financial assistance based on the University's admission policy. Federal eligibility regulations require financial aid recipients to be U.S. citizens or eligible non-citizens, owe no money on a federal student grant, and not be in default on any federal student loans.

## Financial Aid Application Process

Annually students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) which is the first step in determining financial need. The application can be accessed at [FAFSA.Ed.Gov](https://fafsa.ed.gov). If a student does not have Internet access, a paper FAFSA may be obtained directly from the Department of Education. The University does not require any of the supplemental forms processed by the College Scholarship Service (CSS) or American College Testing (ACT), for which there is a fee charged.

The results of the FAFSA will be sent electronically to the financial aid department. Eligibility will be determined and funds will be awarded after receipt of all required documentation. Before any federal loans can be awarded, both a Master Promissory Note (MPN) and Entrance Counseling must be completed on the Department of Education's website, [StudentLoans.gov](https://studentloans.gov).

## Verification

Based on information reported on the FAFSA, the Department of Education will require certain applicants to complete the verification process before becoming eligible for TIV aid. If a student is selected for verification, the University will request that the student provide all required documentation which may include, but is not limited to:

- IRS Tax Return Transcript
- Verification of household size and number in college
- Documentation of high school completion
- Government Issued Photo Identification
- Statement of Educational Purpose

Additional documentation may be required to complete the verification process. All paperwork must be submitted as soon as possible but no later than the earlier of 120 days after the student's last day of enrollment or the end of the award year which runs through the month of September. Federal awards will not be processed until the verification process is completed.

## Preference/Deadline Dates

Both new and returning students are strongly encouraged to submit initial or renewal FAFSA applications as soon as possible each year as some types of financial aid have limited funding and those students whose FAFSA applications are delayed run an increased risk of receiving reduced awards. Effective with the 17/18 award year, students will be able to complete the FAFSA as early as the preceding October of the award year. Only students who have applied for admission to Grand Canyon University will be issued a financial aid offer notice through their student portal.

## Financial Need and Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

Aid for most federal funding is awarded based on financial need. The EFC is a measure a family's financial strength and indicates how much of students' and students' families (for dependent students) financial resources should be available to help pay educational costs.

The EFC is calculated from information reported on the FAFSA using a formula established by law. Family income and assets are considered in determining the EFC along with household size and number of family members attending a postsecondary school. The EFC can be found on the Student Aid Report (SAR) which is the official document produced from the information supplied on the FAFSA.

To determine financial need for federal student aid programs the EFC is subtracted from the Cost of Attendance (COA) which is an estimated amount it will cost to attend school for an academic year. Estimated costs include tuition and fees, room and board, allowances for books, supplies, transportation, and personal expenses. Federal grants and other financial aid are used to meet financial need.

Upon completion of all required paperwork, Title IV funds will be awarded. A financial aid award letter will then be available on the student's portal.

Any changes made to original reported information on the FAFSA may result in a change in financial aid award amounts. If the FAFSA is selected for verification, any changes made during the verification process may also change financial aid award amounts.

# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

## Traditional Academic Calendar

The majority of aid for the Traditional campus is processed using the Scheduled Academic Year calendar which consists of a Fall and Spring term (semester) with aid for a Summer term optional. To receive maximum financial aid benefits, undergraduate students must be enrolled full-time (minimum 12 credits per term). Undergraduate students enrolled less than full-time may be eligible for prorated amounts of federal aid depending on the funding source. Undergraduate programs require enrollment of at least six credits per term for federal loan eligibility. Students who receive any institutional scholarships (i.e., academic, departmental, endowed, and/or merit) must maintain a continuous full-time enrollment status. Courses taken at other colleges do not count towards determining enrollment status at Grand Canyon University for financial aid/scholarship purposes.

## Nontraditional Academic Calendar (Online and Cohort)

Nontraditional campus aid is processed using the Borrower-Based, Non-term academic calendar. An academic year for undergraduate programs is defined as a minimum of 24 earned credits and 30 instructional weeks. The academic year for masters programs is defined as a minimum of 16 earned credits and 32 instructional weeks. Doctoral programs utilize an academic year definition of 12 earned credits and 32 instructional weeks.

An academic year begins with participation in the first eligible course of a degree program and ends when a student successfully completes both the credits and instructional weeks requirements. An academic year has no calendar time constraints and continues through periods of non-attendance that are less than 180 days until both the credit and weeks requirements are met.

The academic year is divided into two payment periods (terms). The first payment period consists of half of the credits and instructional weeks as defined in the academic year. The second payment period begins when a student has successfully completed the first payment period requirements and has continued on into the next scheduled course. Aid is packaged and disbursed using these definitions. Payments of financial aid awards are made in two equal disbursements following the appropriate payment period rules.

## Inform the Office of Financial Aid

Students who receive additional outside assistance must report this fact to the Office of Financial Aid through their assigned Student Services Counselor. Students who have received any Title IV aid from a prior school or are currently receiving Title IV aid at another institution while attending Grand Canyon University must also notify the Office of Financial Aid through their assigned Student Services Counselor as this other source of funding may affect students' eligibility to receive maximum Title IV aid with GCU.

## Student Responsibilities

All students should do the following:

- Accurately complete and return all applications, required documentation, verification forms, and any additional information that is requested by any GCU department or any other agency providing financial assistance. Errors or omissions may delay the awarding and disbursement of eligible funds.
- Read and understand all documentation and agreements that are signed and submitted to any department or agency.
- Review the financial aid offer and all other notices issued regarding the responsibilities and conditions that must be adhered to by students receiving financial aid.
- Understand what portion of the financial aid package is need based aid (grant and scholarships that does not have to be repaid) and what portion is non-need based aid (funding that must be repaid such as student loans). If any portion of the aid is in the form of a student loan, understand the total amount of the loan, the interest rate assessed to the amount borrowed, the repayment schedule, the timeframe of the repayment schedule, and the start date of the repayment schedule.
- Notify the loan servicer of any changes to personal name, address, and enrollment status.
- Review and understand the amounts pertaining to the cost of attendance and the Course Tuition Refund Policy for Grand Canyon University as stated in the Financial Services section.
- Review and comply with all rules and regulations pertaining to academic, financial, and University conduct policies.
- Understand that any intentional misrepresentation of information provided on applications or documents submitted for federal financial aid is a violation of law and is considered a criminal offense subject to penalties under the U.S. Criminal Code and will be reported to the Office of Inspector General (OIG).

# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

## Satisfactory Academic Progress

Satisfactory academic progress (SAP) is defined as a student's progress toward successful completion of his or her degree requirements, as measured by cumulative GPA (qualitative measure) and a completion rate of at least 67% of the cumulative credit hours attempted (quantitative measure).

## Warning

SAP calculations for non-traditional students are performed at the completion of the intervals listed below and are calculated using both the Grand Canyon University enrollment cumulative GPA and cumulative earned credits at each review time period.

- Non-traditional undergraduate students: Every 12 earned credit intervals
- Non-traditional doctoral students: Every six (6) earned credit intervals
- Non-traditional graduate students: Every eight (8) earned credit intervals
- Traditional undergraduate and graduate students: After each semester

Failed grades (F), incompletes and withdrawals will be counted as attempted credits, but will not count as earned credits. Credits earned for repeated coursework, in addition to the original credits, will be counted as both attempted and earned credits.

- Undergraduate students are placed on warning if their enrollment cumulative GPA drops below 2.0 or if they have not earned at least 67% of the cumulative credit hours attempted at each review time period as stated above.
- Graduate students are placed on warning if their enrollment cumulative GPA drops below 3.0 or if they have not earned at least 67% of the cumulative credit hours attempted at each review time period as stated above.

Warning status is removed when the minimum enrollment cumulative GPA specified above is regained and/or students earn 67% of the credits attempted. The warning period provides for an additional credit interval described above. If the student fails to meet the minimum qualitative or quantitative standards, the student will be placed on suspension.

## Support for Students on Warning Status

Students who are notified that they are on financial aid probation are encouraged to contact their SSC to discuss strategies to assist in student success. The following resources are available to students for academic support.

### Tutorials and Demos

- Academic & Career Excellence (ACE)
- Student success webinars

### Quick Start Resource Center

- Bookstore
- Library

### Center for Learning and Advancement (CLA)

- Academic success tutorials
- Turn it in - plagiarism
- Smart thinking resource
- Writing Center
- Math Labs
- Learning Lounge

## Suspension

Students who are placed on suspension are not permitted to enroll in courses for a 15-week suspension period, due to the inability to meet the qualitative and quantitative standards. Non-traditional students will begin their suspension period on the last day of attendance. Traditional students will begin their suspension period on the last day of the semester.

After fulfilling the terms of the suspension, students may apply for reinstatement by submitting a request for reinstatement. Students may or may not be granted re-admittance based on their academic record that includes participation in previous courses. If readmission is granted, an academic plan will be created which may require students to first repeat any course (or its equivalencies) for which they did not earn a grade of C or better (undergraduate) or a B or better (graduate). Students granted re-admittance will need to follow their academic plan which specifies courses to repeat, grades required to be earned and/or any other activities students must complete. The student's progress under the terms of the academic plan is monitored. If the student fails to adhere to the terms of the academic plan, he will not have the opportunity to continue under the reinstatement plan and will be expelled.

Additionally, students will be placed on probation until their enrollment cumulative GPA meets the required 2.0 for undergraduates or the required 3.0 for graduates and/or raising the credit completion percentage of 67% within the next credit interval described above. Students who do not meet this requirement are subject to expulsion. Students whose GPA fall below minimum allowances at any time after the suspension period will not be granted additional probationary time and will be expelled.



# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

Students may regain financial aid eligibility if the student is reinstated academically.

It is important to note that students may also be suspended for other reasons, such as violations of the Code of Conduct and Academic Standards policy.

## Expulsion

Expulsion is reserved for students who have continually failed to meet the university's expected performance requirements, measured by enrollment cumulative GPA and/or credit completion percentage. After a suspended student is permitted reinstatement, a student must raise his GPA to the required minimum and/or raise his credit completion percentage to 67% by the completion of the credit interval described above. If students fail to meet this requirement, they will be expelled from the university and cannot register for any additional courses for two academic years. Students may reapply after that time period. If readmission is granted, students will be required to first repeat any course (or its equivalencies) for which they did not earn a grade of C or better in their program major or minor (undergraduate) or a B or better (graduate). Additionally, the student's progress under the terms of the academic plan is monitored. If the student fails to adhere to the terms of the academic plan, he will not have the opportunity to continue under the reinstatement plan and will be expelled. Non-traditional students will begin their expulsion period on the last day of attendance. Traditional students will begin their expulsion period on the last day of the semester.

It is important to note that students may also be expelled for other reasons, such as violations of the Code of Conduct and academic standards policy.

## Notification to Students

Once a student has been determined to be on warning or suspension, an official university notice will be sent. This status is added to the student record and will be used in determining continued eligibility for financial aid.

## Appeal of Suspension

Students may appeal their suspension status if they have extenuating or mitigating circumstances. The appeal process is designed to offer the student two opportunities to be heard. Students should be aware that appeals in which policy or process was not followed, or where extenuating circumstances are not existent, are unlikely to be approved. Students are encouraged to discuss the intended appeal with an SSC prior to submission. The only acceptable way to submit an appeal is by having an SSC assist the student in filing an appeal form. This form must be submitted with all supporting documentation that clearly and explicitly describes the appeal (including the actual policy being appealed), demonstrating an attempt in good faith to resolve the issues with the involved parties. Under extenuating circumstance, if the student believes the first level decision is unjust, the student may escalate the appeal to the second level by submitting another appeal. Not liking the first level decision is not justification for filing a second appeal. A second appeal decision requires additional documentation to justify a resubmission of the appeal. The second level of appeal decision is the final decision of the university.

## Federal Financial Aid Penalties for Drug Violations

Federal guidelines focus strongly on illicit drug use and distribution. The Higher Education Opportunity Act states that students convicted of an illicit drug violation can be denied federal financial aid for a specific period, in addition to other legal penalties.

The FAFSA asks students if they have been convicted of a drug-related offense: "Have you ever been convicted of possessing or selling illegal drugs while receiving federal aid?" If you answer "yes," the university will send a worksheet in the mail to determine if your conviction affects your eligibility for aid. Failure to answer the question automatically disqualifies students from receiving federal financial aid. Answering this question falsely could result in fines, imprisonment or both.

If students are convicted of both possessing and selling illegal drugs, and the periods of ineligibility are different, students will be ineligible for the longer period.

## Possession of Illegal Drugs

- First offense: A student loses eligibility for federal financial aid for one year from the date of conviction.
- Second offense: A student loses eligibility for federal financial aid for two years from the date of conviction.
- Third and subsequent offenses: A student is indefinitely ineligible for federal financial aid from the date of conviction.

## Sale of Illegal Drugs

- First offense: A student loses eligibility for federal financial aid for two years from the date of conviction.
- Second and subsequent offenses: A student is indefinitely ineligible for federal financial aid from the date of conviction.

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## How to Regain Eligibility

A student can regain eligibility for federal student aid funds the day after the period of ineligibility ends or upon successful completion of a qualified drug rehabilitation program that must include at least two unannounced drug tests.

A student who is denied eligibility for an indefinite period can regain eligibility after completing any of the following options:

- Successfully completing a rehabilitation program, passing two unannounced drug tests from such a program
- Having the conviction reversed, set aside or removed from the student's record so that fewer than two convictions for sale or three convictions for possession remain on the record
- Successfully completing two unannounced drug tests which are part of a rehab program (the student does not need to complete the rest of the program)

In such cases, the nature and dates of the remaining convictions will determine when the student regains eligibility. The student is responsible to certify that a rehabilitation program was successfully completed. As with the conviction question on the FAFSA, the university is not required to confirm the reported information unless conflicting information is determined.

## Convictions During Enrollment

Federal regulations require enrolled students convicted of a drug offense after receiving federal financial aid to notify their SSC immediately; they will become ineligible for further federal financial aid and must repay federal financial aid received after the conviction.

## Disbursement of Title IV Funds for Books and Supplies

If a Pell grant eligible student meets all requirements to receive Title IV funds at least 10 days before the start of a payment period, any Title IV funds in excess of the amount owed to the school at the that time (Title IV credit balance funds) are to be made available to the student up to the amount needed to obtain books and supplies.

The school must make the Title IV credit balance funds for books and supplies available to the student by the 7th day of the payment period.

If a student has not yet established eligibility to receive Title IV funds at least 10 days before the beginning of a payment period due to outstanding verification requirements, unresolved "C" codes on the Student Aid Report (SAR), or conflicting information, this requirement does not apply.

In determining whether a Title IV credit balance exists, the school considers all Title IV funds that could be disbursed at least 10 days before the term/payment period, regardless if funds have been received by the institution. It is the student's eligibility to receive Title IV funds at that time, rather than the school's schedule for receiving or disbursing those funds, that determines the existence and amount of a Title IV credit balance for this purpose.

If a student requires monetary assistance with purchasing books and supplies, he should contact his Student Services Counselor to determine if he meets the qualifications listed above. If the Student Services Counselor determines that the student is eligible to receive assistance in purchasing books/supplies, the student will have a maximum of \$300 available to purchase the required books/supplies.

The student is under no obligation to take advantage of this provision.

## Excess Funds - Stipend Checks

Many times students request aid in excess of the total account charges. Once funds post to the student's account, any funds in excess of the posted charges create a credit balance on the account. In compliance with federal regulations, the University will mail an excess funds (stipend) check within 14 calendar days from the date the Title IV credit balance was created on the account. It is University policy to mail all stipend checks to the current address on file. Students who wish to change their address must go through the Office of Academic Records, update their address on the Student Portal, or contact their SSC to make this change. Students may be subject to a \$25 charge for stop payments made after 21 business days of mailing date. Any credit balance created that is a result of a credit card payment will be returned to the credit card that was initially used or can be used to pay for charges in the next payment period.

Stipend checks are processed according to federal regulations and University policies. For further details, please contact your Student Services Counselor.

## Leave of Absence – Nontraditional

Leave of Absence (LOA) refers to a specific time period during a program when a student is not in attendance. A student who requires a temporary break of enrollment in his program of study that will last for more than 14 days has the option of requesting a Leave of Absence. An LOA must meet certain conditions to be counted as a temporary interruption in a student's education rather than being counted as a withdrawal from the University. There must also be a reasonable expectation that the student will return from the LOA in order for the leave to be approved.

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## Leave of Absence Criteria

- An LOA request must be signed, dated and submitted on or before the last day of class attendance in a course and must include the reason for the student's request. The request must be completed on the GCU Leave of Absence form. Any request submitted after the last day of class in a course will be denied unless unforeseen circumstances prevented the student from doing so.
- GCU policy allows two LOAs of up to 60 calendar days each in any 12 month rolling calendar year.
- A third LOA can be requested within this 12 month period only if the student can demonstrate extenuating circumstances that would warrant a third leave of absence. The total time spent on an LOA in a rolling calendar year cannot exceed a 180 days.
- Students who do not return from an approved LOA will be withdrawn from the University effective the last date of documented attendance.
- Title IV loans cannot be disbursed to a student while on an LOA; Title IV grants and Perkins loan funds can be disbursed to a student while on an LOA.

A student wishing to request an LOA will need to initiate the process with his Student Services Counselor. The final approval/ denial will be completed within one week of the student's LDA. No additional charges can be assessed to a student who returns from an approved LOA. If the LOA request is not approved or the student does not return as scheduled from the approved LOA, this time of nonattendance will be counted against any grace period for Title IV student loan repayment purposes. Because of various federal requirements, a Leave of Absence is available only to the Nontraditional student population.

## Federal Refund Policy - Official and Unofficial Withdrawal

Any federal financial aid recipient who fails all courses in a semester (traditional campus) or withdraws from the University (traditional and nontraditional) is subject to a federal Return of Title IV Aid calculation. This calculation determines both the amount of federal aid that the school is allowed to retain as well as the amount that must be returned to the Department of Education.

An official withdrawal occurs when a student has formally requested to be withdrawn from the University. The student must submit a Complete Withdrawal Form, available on the student portal. If a student notifies his Student Services Counselor of his intent to withdraw from the University but did not complete the Official Withdrawal form, the Student Services Counselor will notify the Office of Academic Records of the official withdrawal request.

An unofficial withdrawal occurs when a student has stopped attending any coursework for a period of 14 consecutive days or more but has not communicated a desire to officially withdraw from the University.

The federal refund calculation is as follows:

1. Withdrawal:
  - a. Withdrawal from the University before the first day of classes, 100% of Title IV aid must be returned.
  - b. Withdrawal from the University through 60% of the payment period will result in a prorated percentage of aid being earned. Any unearned aid due from the school will be returned to the appropriate funding source. In some instances a portion of unearned aid will be the student's responsibility.
  - c. Withdrawal from the University after attending more than 60% of the payment period will result in 100% of the student's Title IV aid being earned. The institution will retain 100% of funding that covers institutional costs; students may retain the remainder of funding.
2. Failing All Courses in a Semester (Traditional Campus): Traditional campus students receiving failing grades in all coursework for the semester will earn 50% of Title IV aid disbursed. If validation can be obtained of a later Last Academic Activity date (LAA), that date will be used in the calculation. The student will continue to owe tuition and fees for the entire semester and will be responsible to the University for any remaining balance on account.
3. Unofficial Withdrawal within a Term Containing Modules (Traditional Campus): Coursework taken within a term where no courses taken span the entire length of the term will be subject to modular refund rules. If the withdrawal from future courses within the term occurs after the student is no longer attending a course, Title IV aid will be earned at a 50% rate and the student will be responsible to the University for any remaining balance on account. If validation can be obtained of a later Last Academic Activity date (LAA), that date will be used in the refund calculation.

## Maximum Timeframe

Federal regulations require a student to complete his Program of Study within a measured maximum time frame that cannot exceed 150% of the published length of the program. The sum of the total required credits multiplied by 150% will be the maximum number of attempted credits for which a student is eligible to receive aid. If a student reaches the 150% timeframe and has not completed his program of study, he is no longer eligible for Title IV aid. The student may continue taking required coursework, but must make other payment arrangements.

# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

## Federal Funding Sources

### Federal Pell Grant

A Federal Pell Grant, unlike a loan, does not have to be repaid. It is available to eligible undergraduate students who have not earned a bachelor's degree. Student and family income information that is provided when completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) determines Pell eligibility.

Effective July 2012, the Department of Education limited the number of semesters/terms to 12 in which a student may receive a Pell grant. A student's remaining Pell eligibility will be reported on the student's Institutional Student Aid Report or students may contact their Student Services Counselor for this information.

Effective with the 17/18 year, students may receive up to 150% of their scheduled Pell award.

### Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

FSEOG is available to undergraduate students with exceptional financial need. Students with the lowest EFCs who also receive a Pell grant for that award year have primary consideration for FSEOG funding. FSEOG is an award that does not require repayment. This award is dependent on financial need and availability of limited funds.

### Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant (IASG)

A student whose parent or guardian was a member of the U. S. Armed Forces and died as a result of service performed in Iraq or Afghanistan after September 11, 2001, may be eligible to receive this grant. For more information on this grant students should contact their Student Services Counselor.

### Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarship

Beginning with the 2018-19 award year, a Pell-eligible student whose parent or guardian died in the line of duty while performing as a public safety officer is eligible to receive a maximum Pell Grant for the award year for which the determination of eligibility is made. For more information about this, students should contact their Student Services Counselor.

### Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant (TEACH)

The Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program was established under the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA), to benefit current and prospective teachers who plan on becoming a teacher and meet certain specific requirements. The Teach Grant program provides grants of up to \$4,000 per academic year to qualified students. Due to sequestration legislation these awards are reduced by predetermined percentage each October 1. In addition, the awards are reduced proportionally based on a student's enrollment status of three-quarter time, half-time and less-than-half time. If a student who receives a TEACH Grant does not complete the required teaching obligation, the grant must be repaid as a Direct Unsubsidized Loan under the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program.

To be eligible to receive a TEACH Grant, a student must:

- Be enrolled in an eligible institution
- File an application and Agreement To Serve
- Have a 3.25 GPA

The Agreement To Serve requirements:

- Full-time teacher for 4 years within eight years of completing degree
- Teach in high need subject areas such as Math, Science, Foreign Language, Bilingual Education, Special Education, Reading Specialist, or a field as defined by the federal government as high need
- Comply with the requirements for being a highly qualified teacher

The amount of the grant will be treated as an unsubsidized Stafford loan and interest will accrue from the date of grant award if the student fails to complete the Agreement to Serve requirements.

For more information about this grant, students can refer to the [Scholarship and Grants](#) page on our website.

### Federal Work-study

Federal work-study provides part-time jobs for students with financial need, allowing them to earn money to help pay educational expenses. Contact Career Services for more information.



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## Federal Loan Programs

Loans are often part of a financial award package as they provide students with an opportunity to defer part of their educational costs by borrowing now and paying later. Each year a student's loan eligibility is determined by completing the FAFSA. Likewise, eligibility for certain loans and loan amounts may change according to the information reported on all required documentation.

## Federal Direct Loan Program

In order to receive a Federal Direct loan, a completed Master Promissory Note (MPN) is required. The MPN is a legal document in which you promise to repay your loan(s) and any accrued interest and fees to the U.S. Department of Education. It explains the terms and conditions of your loan(s), and items such as how interest is calculated, what deferment and cancellation provisions are available to you, and estimated repayment plans.

A second requirement of receiving a student loan is to complete Entrance Counseling. This is a mandatory information session which takes place before you receive your first federal student loan that explains your responsibilities and rights as a student borrower.

Upon graduation/withdrawal, Exit Counseling is also required which will reiterate your rights and responsibilities as a student loan borrower and provide useful tips and information to help manage your student loans.

All required information can be found at [studentloans.gov](http://studentloans.gov).

## Direct Subsidized Loans

Subsidized loans are available to undergraduate students who meet certain financial need criteria. The federal government will pay the interest on the loan while the student is attending classes on at least a half time basis and during periods when the loan is deferred.

Effective July 1, 2012, graduate and professional students are no longer eligible for this loan.

The Department of Education implemented a cap on the amount of time a student can attend an institution and continue to receive a subsidized loan. Any student who had no loan debt effective July 1, 2013 will need to complete his program of study within 150% of the published time to completion. If the student does not complete his program of study within that timeframe, he will no longer be eligible to receive additional subsidized funding. Under certain conditions, the provision also causes first-time borrowers who have exceeded the 150% limit to lose the interest subsidy on their Direct Subsidized loans

## Direct Unsubsidized Loans

Unsubsidized loans are available to students regardless of financial need. Students are responsible for the interest that accrues on this loan from the date the funds are disbursed until the funds are paid back in full. The student borrower also has the option to pay the interest that is accruing while attending school or postponing payments. If payment is postponed, the interest will accrue and be capitalized (added to the principal amount of the loan).

## Plus Loans

PLUS loans are available for graduate/professional students as well as parents of dependent undergraduate students. The PLUS Loan enables parents/graduate students to borrow up to the full cost of attendance less any other financial assistance awarded to the student. PLUS Loan borrowers are subject to a credit check before loan approval.

The interest rate for new loans is determined each year and is announced during the month of July. Contact your Student Services Counselor for the current interest rates.

Repayment on the principal loan balance begins six (6) months after the borrower drops below half-time enrollment status or graduates. Normally, monthly loan payments will not be less than fifty dollars (\$50) and must be repaid within the time-period specified by the terms of the borrower's repayment contract.

## Annual and Aggregate Loan Limits

There are limits on the amount of subsidized and unsubsidized loans that a student is eligible to receive each academic year (annual loan limits) and the total amounts that may be borrowed for undergraduate and graduate study (aggregate loan limits).

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ANNUAL LOAN LIMITS			
	Base Loan Dependent/ Independent Sub/Unsub	Additional Loan Independent Unsub	Total Loan Amount
Freshman	\$3,500/\$2,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 9,500
Sophomore	\$4,500/\$2,000	\$ 4,000	\$10,500
Junior	\$5,500/\$2,000	\$ 5,000	\$12,500
Senior	\$5,500/\$2,000	\$ 5,000	\$12,500
Graduate		\$20,500	\$20,500

AGGREGATE STAFFORD LOAN LIMITS	
Undergraduate Subsidized Limit	\$ 23,000
Undergraduate Combined Limit	\$ 57,500
Graduate Subsidized Limit (including all undergraduate subsidized loans)	\$ 65,500
Graduate Combined Limit (including all undergraduate loans)	\$138,500

## National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS)

Federal loan information will be reported to the NSLDS and will be accessible by guaranty agencies, lenders and schools determined to be authorized users of the data system. Students may access the Student NSLDS system at [NSLDS](#) to review their individual financial aid history.

## Code of Conduct for Education Loans

The Grand Canyon University Code of Conduct prohibits a conflict of interest with the responsibilities of an agent of the school with respect to private education loans. This code of conduct prohibits:

- Revenue-sharing arrangements with any lender
- Receiving gifts from a lender, a guarantor or a loan servicer
- Contracting arrangement providing financial benefit from any lender or affiliate of a lender
- Directing borrowers to particular lenders, or refusing or delaying loan certifications
- Offers of funds for private loans
- Call center or financial aid staffing assistance
- Advisory board compensation

## Scholarship Opportunities

Grand Canyon University offers a variety of scholarships to help support the educational goals of students attending the GCU campus fulltime. Scholarships, unlike student loans, do not need to be repaid and are awarded on a variety of factors, from academic merit and fine arts to leadership and early decision.

On-campus scholarships are administered by the GCU Scholarship Office, individual colleges and various campus departments and associations. Requirement criteria vary for each scholarship.

GCU scholarships are awarded based on one or more of the following criteria:

- Academic merit
- Financial need
- Personal background

Some scholarships have specific requirements or conditions that must be met and many are renewable each year. Scholarship opportunities are located on our [Scholarships and Grants](#) page on our website.

# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

## State Grants for Arizona Residents

### Arizona Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership Program (AzLEAP)

The AZ LEAP program is a state and institutional partnership which provides student financial assistance in the form of need-based grants to low-income, undergraduate, Arizona resident students who have demonstrated substantial financial need.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Must be a U.S. Citizen or an eligible non-citizen
- Must be a resident of Arizona
- Must be enrolled at least half-time as an undergraduate student in a regionally or nationally accredited Arizona postsecondary institution
- Must have substantial financial need (be Pell eligible) as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Must meet GCU Satisfactory Academic requirements
- Must not have concurrent enrollment in undergraduate and graduate courses

### Arizona Teacher Student Loan Program (formerly known as MSSE)

The Arizona Teacher Student Loan Program is a need-based forgivable loan designed to financially support and encourage college students who are Arizona residents to enter into the teaching profession and teach in a public school in Arizona.

The maximum forgivable loan is \$7,000 per academic year for up to three years excluding all grants, scholarships and other tuition benefits (ex: tribal and military). Funds can be applied toward tuition, instructional materials and mandatory fees as documented in the student's Cost of Attendance (COA) at their institution.

Students must enter into an agreement with the Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education (ACPE) to teach in an Arizona public school in a term equal to the number of years of loans received plus one year. Additionally, students must sign a promissory note acknowledging the conditions of the loan and promising to repay the loan plus interest if the teaching obligation is not met.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Must be a U.S. Citizen or an eligible non-citizen
- Must be a resident of Arizona for at least the previous 12 months at the time of application completion
- Must be enrolled at least half-time in a baccalaureate program working on a teaching degree or an alternative teacher certification program at a nationally or regionally accredited postsecondary educational institution in Arizona (public or private)
- Must be a junior or higher (completed at least 55 college credit hours) in a course of instruction with the intent to attain licensure as a teacher in math, science, special education or to provide instruction as a teacher in a public low-income school, public rural school or a public school located on an Indian reservation
- Must be seeking a first baccalaureate degree or an alternative teaching certificate
- Must have financial need (Cost of Attendance minus Expected Family Contribution (EFC))
- Must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress as determined by the institution
- Must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Must enter into an agreement with the Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education (ACPE) to teach in an Arizona public school in a term equal to the number of years of loans received plus one year
- Must sign a promissory note acknowledging the conditions of the loan and promising to repay the loan plus 7% interest if teaching obligation is not met
- First time applicants must write a 250-500 word essay on why they want to be a teacher

### Additional State Grant Programs

Students may be also eligible to receive grants and scholarships in their states where available. Depending on the program, student eligibility may be need-based, non-need based, credit-based or dependent on other specific conditions.

The amount of state grants awarded to any student is contingent on the availability of funds. The university cannot guarantee any funding from the state grant sources listed, as the list is subject to change without notice based on changes in state budgetary constraints, state law or regulation and/or university participation. Where a work or other requirement is included in order to preclude the conversion of a scholarship or grant to a loan, the university makes no representation or warranty as to whether a graduate will be able to gain such employment or fulfill such other requirement.

For information regarding grants and scholarships offered by various states, go to [http://www.NASFAA.org/state\\_financial\\_aid\\_programs](http://www.NASFAA.org/state_financial_aid_programs)

# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

## Student Employment

### Federal and Non-Federal Work Study

On campus Federal Work Study and Non-Federal Work Study employees will not be able to work without completed hiring documents. Federal and Non-Federal Work Study positions are paid bi-monthly. A student employed by GCU must be registered for at least six credit hours in order to maintain his/her exemption from Social Security taxes. Students are unable to receive state unemployment upon termination of their position.

Students are expected to do the following:

- Report to work promptly.
- Notify supervisors in advance if they will be late or absent from work.
- Refrain from conducting personal business and schoolwork during scheduled work hours.
- Accurately report the hours worked (sign time sheet).
- Dress appropriately according to position.
- Monitor earnings in relation to their Federal Work Study award.
- Give two weeks' notice before resigning.

### International Student Employment

International students who wish to work while in the U.S. must be aware of and comply with F-1 visa employment regulations. Working illegally while in the U.S. is a serious offense that must be reported to the Department of Homeland Security (SEVIS) and can result in loss of F-1 status and benefits, and possible deportation. All international students must confer with the staff at the International Students Office before accepting or beginning any employment.

For Canadian Students: Grand Canyon University is dedicated to providing high quality service for our Canadian students. Please be advised that students are responsible for determining their eligibility for Canadian Tax Credits. Certain Grand Canyon University courses and programs may not meet certain requirements for tax credits, including but not limited to the minimum week and continuous enrollment requirements. For more information on Canadian Tax Credits, please contact The Revenue Canada Agency or visit [www.cra.gc.ca](http://www.cra.gc.ca).

### On-Campus Employment

International students with F-1 status may be employed on campus without obtaining special permission from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) provided they are maintaining legal immigration status. Nonetheless, international students should check with the International Students Office to be sure the prospective job is permissible.

### Off-Campus Employment

After being enrolled full-time for one academic year (two semesters), international students may be eligible for employment off-campus; however, opportunities are limited. Consult with the International Students Office for more information.

Below is a listing of the three primary types of off-campus employment that are available to international students.

- Practical Training (PT) - PT is a benefit that allows F-1 students to gain practical experience working in the US in their field of study. There are two types of PT, Optional Practical Training (OPT) and Curricular Practical Training (CPT). OPT may be taken either during or following completion of the degree program, but is most feasible following completion because of the amount of time it takes to apply. Students are allowed a total of 12 months of OPT. The International Student Coordinator in the International Students Office will determine eligibility for OPT and may recommend to USCIS that work authorization for OPT be given. Prior to submitting an application for OPT, students must have completed full-time enrollment in two semesters of the degree program, and the application must be submitted to USCIS prior to completion. USCIS will review the application and upon approval will issue an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) card as legal permission to work. Students must have the EAD in their possession before they begin to work. Students are not required to have a job offer to apply for OPT.
- CPT may be authorized for those F-1 students who have enrolled in an internship course and have an internship job (firm offer) that has been certified through the college and the International Students Office. Any time up to 12 months on full-time CPT does not detract from a student's OPT. Students who complete 12 or more months of full-time CPT, however, are not eligible for OPT.
- Employment with an International Organization: This type of employment is very limited and must fit within the guidelines of the International Organization Immunities Act. It may require a change of status that could be detrimental to the student's status.



# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

## Social Security Number

A Social Security Number (SSN) is required in order to be employed in the U.S. For F-1 students to obtain an SSN, they must have employment on-campus or have other work authorization like Curricular Practical Training or Optional Practical Training. To apply for a SSN on the basis of an on-campus job, students must provide a letter from the campus department and the International Students Office, verifying the job and eligibility.

The following documentation will be necessary to present when applying:

- Unexpired passport containing F-1 visa
- Form I-94 Arrival/Departure record
- I-20 form
- One other piece of identification – a student ID card, driver's license, etc.
- Letter of eligibility from the Center of International Education
- Letter from campus department where the student will be working

To apply on the basis of Curricular Practical Training (CPT), after approval for the internship and registration for an internship course, the staff in International Students Office will generate a new I-20 that lists the student's work permission for that specific employment. In the case of Optional Practical Training (OPT), the student will apply for it in the last semester of study. Upon approval from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS), the student will receive a card showing work authorization. Please see staff in the International Students Office for these types of employment.

After obtaining one of the above types of authorization and documentation, an international student may apply for a Social Security Number by going in person to the local Social Security Administration office. The International Students Office can direct students to the nearest Social Security Administration office.

## International Student Tax-Reporting Responsibilities

International students have some responsibilities for reporting to the Internal Revenue Service each year. Students may be subject to U.S. taxation based on the source and type of income and the number of years they have been present in the U.S. Each tax year, all international students must file Form 8843. Those who earned income from a U.S. source must file Form 1040NR or 1040NR-EZ. Grants and scholarships may be subject to taxation. Generally, tax forms must be filed by April 15 for the previous tax year (January 1 – December 31).

It is students' responsibility to determine tax liabilities and file the appropriate forms in a timely manner.

The International Students Office is not trained as professional tax consultants and cannot complete and/or file any tax forms.

