

Award Notice Supplement

The Office of Student Financial Services, serving all the component schools, provides assistance to students in obtaining financial assistance for payment of tuition and expenses associated with the academic programs at UTHealth Houston, UTHealth Northeast and UT MD Anderson Cancer Center (UTMDACC). The information provided is designed to supplement the Financial Aid Award Notice and offer important information regarding the financial aid award process.

AWARD NOTIFICATION

Financial Aid Counselors are available Monday – Friday from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm to assist you with questions regarding the financial aid process. Counselors are assigned to applicants based on your last name. Any counselor may assist you on a walk-in basis; therefore, making an appointment is not necessary. If you prefer to contact your specified counselor, please refer to the chart below for contact information:

FIRST LETTER OF YOUR LAST NAME	FINANCIAL AID COUNSELOR	E-MAIL	PHONE
A – F	Jennifer Giap	Jennifer.Giap@uth.tmc.edu	(713) 500-3869
G – O	Yennie Jimenez	Yennie.Jimenez@uth.tmc.edu	(713) 500-3868
P – Z	Chaneen Perez	Chaneen.Perez@uth.tmc.edu	(713) 500-3867

MAIN OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone	(713) 500-3860
Fax	(713) 500-3863
E-mail	Sfaregis@uth.tmc.edu
Physical Address	UTHealth Office of Student Financial Services 7000 Fannin, Suite 2220 Houston, Texas 77030

VETERANS & SERVICE MEMBERS

To initiate the application process for Veterans Benefits such as Post 9/11 GI Bill, Vocational Rehab and Veterans Education Assistance Program (VEAP), we recommend all veterans contact the Veterans Coordinator, Winston Matranga, in the Registrar's Office at (713) 500-3351.

Veterans applying for federal financial aid funds are encouraged to contact their assigned financial aid counselor prior to the beginning of the award process. The [financial aid counselor](#) will explain the funding sources available to you while at UTHealth or UT MD Anderson School of Health Professions.

The Financial Aid Shopping Sheet (Shopping Sheet) is available to self-identified veterans who apply for financial aid. The Shopping Sheet contains estimated figures that are meant to help veterans easily compare financial aid packages offered by different institutions, and ultimately make an informed decision on where to invest in their higher education. The information included in the Shopping Sheet is meant to supplement the financial aid award notice.

For questions regarding the financial aid application process or the Shopping Sheet, contact the Office of Student Financial Services at (713) 500-3860.

AWARD NOTIFICATION

After your application has been processed, you will receive a Financial Aid Award Notice e-mail directing you to view your award notice online via [myUTH](#). The award notice will detail the types and amounts of aid you are eligible to receive and it will display the disbursement schedule.

Accept, decline or reduce your financial aid award electronically via [myUTH](#). You may print a paper copy of your award notice for record keeping purposes should you decide to do so.

Accepting or Declining your Financial Aid Award Offer:

Student Home > Financial Aid > Accept/Decline > Edit  > Award Decision > Submit

Additional steps may be required for certain types of aid. To determine which, if any, loan materials you need to complete, check your Task Tile and review your To Do List items.

MASTER PROMISSORY NOTE (MPN)

Federal Direct Loan borrowers are required to complete a [Master Promissory Note \(MPN\)](#) specific to Direct Loans.

Continuing financial aid Direct Loan recipients (including transfer students) who previously completed the MPN specific to Direct Loans within the last 10 years are not required to complete the MPN again.

ENTRANCE COUNSELING

First time Direct Loan borrowers are required to complete [Federal Entrance Counseling](#) available on [studentloans.gov](#).

Continuing financial aid Direct Loan recipients (including transfer students) are not required to complete Subsidized/Unsubsidized Direct Loan entrance counseling each year after the initial forms have been completed.

Graduate/Professional borrowers may need to complete [Federal Entrance Counseling](#) if federal aid was not borrowed as an undergraduate student or if this is an applicant's first-time borrowing the Direct PLUS Loan as a graduate/professional student.

Parent PLUS Loan borrowers are *not required* to complete Federal Entrance Counseling *unless* the U.S. Department of Education has informed the applicant that [PLUS Entrance Counseling](#) must be completed. Typically, this is the case when the PLUS loan is approved by obtaining an endorser or through the reconsideration process.

Perkins borrowers are required to complete Perkins Entrance Counseling available on [mappingyourfuture.org](#)

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) loan recipients must complete the Entrance Counseling for your specific DHHS loan *annually*. These types of loans include: [Health Professions Student Loan](#), [Loans for Disadvantaged Students](#), and [Nursing Student Loans](#).

All federal loan recipients are encouraged to complete **Financial Awareness Counseling (FAC)** prior to accepting loan awards. This tool will provide students with repayment and financial planning strategies. FAC is available at [studentloans.gov](#).

FEDERAL DIRECT LOAN FEES & INTEREST RATES

Most federal student loans have fees that are a percentage of the total loan amount. These fees are referred to as **Federal Direct Loan Origination Fees**. Origination fees are imposed by the lender on all Federal Direct Subsidized, Unsubsidized and PLUS loans to process the loan and will be proportionately deducted from each loan disbursement. Federal Direct Loan origination fees change annually on October 1st.

Federal student loans carry an **interest rate**. Interest is money paid to the lender in exchange for borrowing money. Interest is calculated as a percentage of the unpaid principal amount (loan amount) borrowed. The interest rate varies depending on the loan type and the first disbursement date of the loan for most types of federal student loans. Federal student loan interest rates change annually on July 1st.

Please refer to the studentaid.ed.gov website for more information regarding current federal loan [origination fees](#) and [interest rates](#).

PERMISSION TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT

The Department of Education has implemented federal regulations that authorize this University to administer Title IV (federal) financial aid funds. Title IV (federal) funds are financial aid you may receive in your financial aid package from the University and include:

- Federal Pell Grant
- Federal Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant
- Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG)
- Federal Perkins Loan
- Federal Direct Subsidized Loan Program
- Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan Program
- Federal Direct PLUS (Graduate Student)
- Federal Direct PLUS (Parent)

Other funds this University administers may also include:

- Health Professions Student Loan
- Loans for Disadvantaged Students
- Nursing Student Loan
- Nurse Faculty Loan Program

Federal regulations stipulate that Title IV (federal) financial aid funds cannot be applied to your student account until ten (10) days prior to the first day of classes or as designated by the Financial Aid Office. Federal regulations further require that the University apply your Title IV (federal) financial aid funds to 'allowable charges', which are tuition and mandatory fees. The University also assesses charges to your student account in order to consolidate billing. Some of these charges might include installment fees, late fees, and other miscellaneous charges. Federal regulations require the University to obtain your authorization to apply your Title IV (federal) financial aid to all charges appearing on your student account.

Your permission to authorize financial aid to pay for these charges will expedite the settlement of your student account. If authorization is not received prior to the tuition/fees due date, the Title IV (federal) financial aid funds will not be applied to all allowable charges. This may result in an outstanding balance on your student account and the assessment of late fees.

You are not required to give authorization, but if granted, you may rescind the authorization at any time in person at the financial aid office during normal business hours. Once the authorization is signed, the Secretary of Education considers the initial authorization to be valid for future years unless and until you rescind the authorization. This rescission of Student Permissions is not retroactive.

To grant Student Permissions:

[Student Home](#) > [Financial Account](#) > [View Student Permissions](#)

Funds received from outside providers (i.e., scholarships, alternative loans) via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) will be applied to allowable charges. Funds received as a paper check may require endorsement prior to being applied to allowable charges.

COST OF ATTENDANCE & DISBURSEMENTS

The financial aid [Cost of Attendance](#) (COA) is a reasonable average of a student's educational and living expenses for the period of enrollment. The COA sets limits on the total aid that a student may receive, and is generally the sum of tuition, fees, books and supplies, room and board, transportation and personal/miscellaneous expenses. Federal, state, institutional and other resources cannot exceed the cost of attendance. The COA may be used by students to financially prepare to meet their educational expenses.

The Office of Student Financial Services conducts a biennial student cost of living survey to determine the most recent and accurate living costs. Enrolled students are enrolled to participate in this survey when it becomes available.

The financial aid COA and financial aid awards are estimated based on anticipated full-time [enrollment](#). For periods less than full-time, the budget and financial aid awards (Pell grants and loans) are adjusted according to the hours enrolled at the end of [add/drop period](#) for each term. **You will be expected to resolve any overpayment of financial aid (Pell grants and loans) that resulted from a reduction in enrollment hours.** The outstanding balance will be reflected on your UTHHealth student account. Students must be enrolled at least half-time in order to receive loans. Academic students must be enrolled for both 6-week sessions at the beginning of the term to receive summer financial aid disbursements.

Students must meet [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#) (SAP) to qualify for disbursements. SAP is calculated annually at the end of the spring term once all grades have been posted.

Negative Service Indicators (HOLDS) must be resolved for funds to disburse.

Awards are typically scheduled to disburse the first day of classes of each semester unless otherwise indicated on the award notice.

NOTES:

Students **MAY NOT** receive Pell Grant disbursements from two schools at once. Students receiving Direct Loan funds cannot exceed the [federal annual loan limits](#) established by the Department of Education.

Beginning with the 2011-2012 award year, federal law limits the amount of Federal Pell Grant funds a student may receive over his or her lifetime to be the equivalent of six years of Pell Grant funding. Since the maximum amount of Pell Grant funding a student can receive each year is equal to 100%, the six-year equivalent is 600%.

PAYMENT PLAN & REFUNDS

Payment Plans are available on [myUTH](#) to assist students in paying tuition and fees. There is a non-refundable payment plan fee to enroll.

Academic Students participating in the payment plan should enroll *only* if they expect to have an extended lapse in receiving financial aid payments. Once financial aid has been disbursed for the term, *all allowable charges* for the current term will be paid regardless of the payment agreement.

Medical (MD) and Dental (DDS) Students are encouraged to enroll in a payment plan *prior to the disbursement of financial aid funds* to ensure funds are applied to *current allowable charges* rather than the *full allowable charges*. This will ensure a more equalized refund amount for each term, if applicable.

Payment Plan

Student Home > Financial Account > Enroll in Payment Plan

Refunds will be processed by the [Bursar's](#) Office after your financial aid has been applied to the current allowable charges and will be made in the manner in which you authorize.

Direct Deposit

Student Home > Financial Account > Enroll in Direct Deposit

If you do not specify a refund option, a paper check will be mailed to your current address on file. For this reason, it is important to keep your local address current on [myUTH](#).

For more information on the installment plan or refund process, contact the [Bursar](#) at (713) 500-3088.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

To obtain a historical list of most Federal loans borrowed, please visit [nslds.ed.gov](#).

Students who have borrowed private loans may want to request a credit report to obtain a comprehensive list of loans.

Loan repayment plans and a loan Repayment Calculator may be accessed by visiting <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/understand/plans/income-driven>. When utilizing the calculator, please remember to add any loans accepted on the award notice to your historical list.

To peruse a public glossary of standard loan terms and definitions, please visit <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/loans/interest-rates>.

College Navigator is a free consumer information tool provided by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) designed to help students, parents, and others obtain information and statistics related to a college's accreditation, enrollment, tuition/fees, financial aid and graduation rates. College Navigator also offers tools allowing users to compare assorted data from various institutions.

Click the appropriate link below to view data from your institution:

[UTHealth](#)

[UTMDACC](#)

[UTHealth Northeast](#)

STUDENT RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

1. You must accurately complete all application and/or verification forms and submit in a timely manner to the appropriate office.
2. The deadline for processing the **2018-2019 FAFSA** is **April 15, 2019**.
3. You must provide correct information. Misreporting information on financial aid forms is a violation and may be considered a criminal offense which could result in an indictment under the U.S. criminal code.
4. You must accept full responsibility for all agreements that you sign.
5. You should be aware of your school's refund policies and procedures which may be found at https://www.uth.edu/sfs/policies-and-disclosures/refund_repayment_index.htm.
6. You must keep the Office of Student Financial Services and the Department of Education informed of any changes in name, marital status (if applicable), address or school status while in school, after graduation and while any loans are outstanding.
7. This office may assume, based on information received from the student, schools and outside sources, that you may be receiving other financial resources (e.g., tuition/fee sponsorship, stipends, and internal/external scholarships). If this information is incorrect, please notify the Office of Student Financial Services so that your award may be adjusted.
8. You must complete a [Master Promissory Note](#) (MPN) and [Entrance Counseling](#) for Direct Loans to receive federal student aid.
9. You must complete [Exit Counseling](#) upon graduation, withdrawal or less than half-time enrollment.
10. For more information regarding Direct Loans visit [studentaid.ed.gov](#).