

## Financial Aid Offer Supplement

The Office of Student Financial Services helps students in obtaining financial assistance for payment of tuition and expenses associated with the academic programs at: UTHealth and UT MD Anderson School of Health Professions. The information provided is designed to supplement the Financial Aid Offer and provide information regarding the financial aid award process.

Financial Aid counselors are available Monday through Friday from 8:00 am until 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, appointments are not necessary. To contact your specified counselor, refer to the chart below for contact information:

SCHOOL	COUNSELOR	E-MAIL	PHONE
School of Public Health	Jennifer Giap	<a href="mailto:Jennifer.Giap@uth.tmc.edu">Jennifer.Giap@uth.tmc.edu</a>	(713) 500-3869
McGovern Medical School (MD)	Bryan Montes	<a href="mailto:Bryan.J.Montes@uth.tmc.edu">Bryan.J.Montes@uth.tmc.edu</a>	(713) 500-0304
Graduate Nursing MD Anderson	Yvonne Pastrana	<a href="mailto:Yvonne.L.Pastrana@uth.tmc.edu">Yvonne.L.Pastrana@uth.tmc.edu</a>	(713) 500-3871
Undergraduate Nursing Graduate Dental School of Biomedical Informatics (SBMI) Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS)	John Denton	<a href="mailto:John.W.Denton@uth.tmc.edu">John.W.Denton@uth.tmc.edu</a>	(713) 500-3969
School of Dentistry (DDS) Dental Hygiene Graduate Dental Hygiene	Priscila Ramirez	<a href="mailto:Priscila.N.Ramirez@uth.tmc.edu">Priscila.N.Ramirez@uth.tmc.edu</a>	(713) 500-3861

MAIN OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION	
Phone	(713) 500-3860
Fax	(713) 500-3863
E-mail	<a href="mailto:Sfaregis@uth.tmc.edu">Sfaregis@uth.tmc.edu</a>
Address	UTHealth Office of Student Financial Services 7000 Fannin, Suite 2220 Houston, TX 77030
Web	<a href="http://www.uth.edu/sfs">www.uth.edu/sfs</a>
Twitter	@uthealthfinaid
YouTube	AllAboutFinancialAid

### **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 enrolled.

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 offer.

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

### **FINANCIAL AID OFFER**

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

### **TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID**

Grants are financial assistance awarded to eligible students demonstrating financial need. Often referred to as “gift-aid,” grants are not generally required to be repaid. Click [here](#) for a complete list of grants offered by UTHealth.

The Office of Student Financial Services offers information as a tool to assist students in searching for scholarships. Results are not promised or guaranteed. Click [here](#) for more information regarding scholarships.

Student loans are funds provided to undergraduate, graduate and/or professional students to help assist with educational expenses. Loans are considered self-help financial assistance and must be repaid. Click [here](#) for a complete list of Federal and Institutional Loans offered by UTHealth.

### **ACCEPT/DECLINE AID**

Financial aid offers should be accepted, declined or reduced electronically via [myUTH](#). You may print a paper copy of your financial aid offer for record keeping purposes. Check your Task Tile to review your To Do List for any outstanding items requiring completion as additional steps may be required for certain types of aid.

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

### **MASTER PROMISSORY NOTE (MPN)**

The Department of Education requires student loan borrowers to complete a Loan Agreement/Master Promissory Note (MPN) when applying for federal student loans. The MPN is a legal agreement between you and the Department of Education in which you promise to repay your loans(s) and any accrued interest and fees. The loan agreement also outlines the terms and conditions of the loan(s).

First time Federal Direct Loan borrowers are required to complete a [Master Promissory Note](#) (MPN) specific to Direct Loans (Subsidized/Unsubsidized).

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 except in cases where the MPN has expired or unless requested by the university.

Direct PLUS Loan (Graduate/Professional or Parent) borrowers are required to complete a [Master Promissory Note](#) (MPN) specific to the PLUS Loan.

### **LOAN ENTRANCE COUNSELING**

The Department of Education requires federal student loan borrowers to complete **Loan Entrance Counseling** before borrowing a federal loan to ensure borrowers understand the responsibilities and obligations assumed by applying for a loan. Loan Entrance counseling must be completed before you can receive the proceeds of your first Direct Loan.

First-time Federal Direct Loan borrowers are required to complete **Loan Entrance Counseling** available on [Studentaid.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 unless requested to do so by the Office of Student Financial Services.

Graduate/Professional borrowers may need to complete Loan 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 Credit Counseling** must be completed. Typically, this is the case when the PLUS loan is approved by obtaining an endorser or through the reconsideration process.

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.

### **ANNUAL STUDENT LOAN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT (ASLA)**

Beginning in the 2022-2023 award year, the Department of Education recommends federal student loan borrowers complete the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement (ASLA) process each year a borrower accepts a new federal student loan. The Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement is meant to assist borrowers in making an informed decision when financing their education. The ASLA process should be completed each year prior to receiving the first disbursement of a loan for the particular award year.

The Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement is in addition to the MPN process and does not replace existing loan entrance counseling requirements.

The Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement process is available on [Studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) and may be accessed using your FSA ID and password.

### **FEDERAL DIRECT LOAN FEES & INTEREST**

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 1<sup>st</sup>.

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 1<sup>st</sup>.

Please refer to the [Studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.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 Offer from the University and include:

- Federal Pell Grant
- Federal Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant
- Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG)
- 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 allowable 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.

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.

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.

### **GRANT STUDENT PERMISSIONS:**

Student Home > Financial Account > View Student Permissions

### **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 encouraged to participate in this survey when available.

The financial aid COA and financial aid offers are estimated based on anticipated full-time [enrollment](#). For periods less than full-time, the budget and financial aid (Pell grants) 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 (Federal, State and institutional grants and loans) that resulted from a reduction in enrollment hours.** The outstanding balance will be reflected on your student account.

Students must be enrolled at least half-time in order for loans to disburse. Academic students must be enrolled for both 6-week sessions at the beginning of the term to receive summer financial aid disbursements.

The awarding of state aid, TPEG and Designated Tuition grants are also subject to half-time enrollment and the meeting of Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP).

Students must meet [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#) (SAP) to qualify for any aid disbursements. SAP is calculated

annually once all grades have been posted at the end of the term as designated below:

**UTHealth** - Spring term

**UT MD Anderson** - Summer term

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 Financial Aid Offer.

#### **NOTES:**

#### **PELL GRANTS**

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%.

#### **REVISION REQUESTS**

Although every effort is made to optimize financial options for students, we understand that extraordinary circumstances arise which may require funding for additional expenses. Through professional judgment of the financial aid counselors, the Office of Student Financial Services offers some options to help alleviate the financial burden of these situations. An aid administrator's decision regarding adjustments is final and cannot be appealed to the Department of Education. There is an approximate 4–6 weeks processing time for each request and processing may be delayed during peak periods (e.g., semester starts). Revision Requests for **unusual circumstances** (dependency status overrides) may be reviewed and processed to determine an initial award. **Special circumstances** (e.g., financial situations, job loss, change in housing status, computer, etc.) requests are reviewed and processed after program census date.

#### **PAYMENT PLAN**

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 the two-part 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 equal refund amount for each term, if applicable.

#### **ENROLL IN PAYMENT PLAN**

Student Home > Financial Account > Enroll in Payment Plan

#### **REFUNDS**

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. To avoid refund delays, students are encouraged to enroll in direct deposit.

#### **DIRECT DEPOSIT**

To expedite the processing of refunds, students are encouraged to enroll in Direct Deposit. If a refund option is not selected, refunds will be mailed via paper check to the current address on file.

## ENROLL IN DIRECT DEPOSIT

Student Home > Financial Account > Enroll in Direct Deposit

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

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

1. Go to [Studentaid.gov](#)
2. Log into your account with your FSA ID and password.
3. "Accept" the account access warning.
4. Select "View Details".

Students who have borrowed private loans are encouraged to request a free credit report to obtain a comprehensive list of loans.

Loan repayment options with the *Loan Simulator* may be accessed by visiting <https://studentaid.gov/loan-simulator/>. When utilizing the simulator, please remember to add any loans accepted on the award notice to your historical list.

For more information on understanding financial aid visit: <https://studentaid.gov/h/understand-aid>

**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](#)

[UTMDAnderson](#)

## 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 institutional deadline for processing the **2023-2024 FAFSA** is **April 15, 2024**.
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](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: loan default, judgment liens (students/parents of dependent students), drug law violations, changes in name, marital status (if applicable), address or school status while in school or 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. To receive Federal student loans, you must complete a [Master Promissory Note](#) (MPN), [Entrance Counseling](#).
9. You must complete [Exit Counseling](#) upon graduation, withdrawal or less than half-time enrollment.
10. For more information regarding Direct Loans visit [Studentaid.gov](#).

Information contained in this document is subject to change at any time in accordance with state, institutional and federal regulatory updates.