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This newsletter and an archive are available on the web at finaid.umich.edu/publications

Newsletter

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Plan Ahead: *December release of emergency funding*

If you need emergency assistance in the month of December, it is important that you make the request for these funds from any university source no later than December 13 (including assistance from: the University Short Term Loan Program, department/school/college programs, CEW, Dean of Students Office, and the Office of Financial Aid.) Refund checks and direct deposit will be off-line from December 14 until December 30, limiting any release of emergency funds. If you have a critical and unexpected need after December 14, please visit the Office of Financial Aid to determine if there are any potential options available.

2020 Spring/Summer: Aid to be awarded on a rolling basis

Applications will begin to be accepted on February 1, 2020 with financial aid awards being made upon application, assuming full-time enrollment. Aid will be awarded on a rolling, first-come, first-served basis.

Grant funding for Spring/Summer terms is expected to be even more limited in 2020 than in years past.

The Office of Financial Aid will share aid packages as soon as possible so students can decide whether they can afford to attend during these terms and to adjust their plans, if needed. We recommend that students consider their individual financial situations as they consider attending Spring/Summer terms.

2020-2021 Financial Aid application and deadline information

Deadline Date March 31, 2020. If you submit application materials after this date you may still qualify for some financial assistance, however late applicants will receive consideration after all on-time applications have been reviewed in the order in which their application was completed. Later applicants will typically begin receiving notification of eligibility beginning in late July.

We want to help make the financial aid application process as stress-free as possible. Here are some tips:

- Watch for emails from the Office of Financial Aid. Email is the main way in which OFA will communicate with you.
- Use the Data Retrieval Tool (DRT), available to most families when completing your FAFSA, to easily access your federal tax return information on the IRS website and transfer it to your FAFSA. If you and/or your parents are eligible to use this tool, continuing student families will not be required to submit a federal tax return or federal tax transcript.
- Check your Wolverine Access Student Portal frequently so you don't miss any document requests: Go to your Student Center > Financial Aid > Aid Year 2021 for these important requests. Look to the far right of the screen, next to the requested item, for available links to documents and/or instructions.
- Deadlines are important. Missing the deadline could significantly reduce your financial aid offer. Mark the date on your calendar and set your own deadlines for checking your application status and for any additional information.

Tammie Durham named U-M's financial aid executive director

Tammie Durham is the University of Michigan's new assistant vice provost and executive director of financial aid in the Office of Enrollment Management.

Durham, whose appointment was effective Nov. 4, oversees the Office of Financial Aid and partners across campus to lead and support the overall university financial aid strategy and execution.

She succeeds Pamela Fowler, who retired in June.

Durham is working with a team of nearly 50 financial aid practitioners, including representatives in the schools and colleges.

Durham brings nearly 20 years of experience in higher education, most recently as director of financial aid at New York University, and previously as the director of enrollment services at Penn State Schuylkill, a campus of Penn State University.

Prior to that, she was a financial aid and admissions coordinator at Penn State Schuylkill, and started her career as an accountant at Penske Truck Leasing. Durham also served as an adjunct professor, teaching courses in public relations and marketing, and the first-year experience at Penn State Schuylkill.

Durham earned a bachelor's degree in professional accountancy and a master's degree in public administration, both from Penn State Harrisburg.

Go Blue Guarantee continues for 2020–2021

The U-M Go Blue Guarantee programs remain unchanged and continue to support undergraduate, Michigan-resident students. Additional eligibility information can be found at https://finaid.umich.edu/go-blue-guarantee-eligibility/. Remember, your application must be complete by March 31 for consideration.

Verify bank account to ensure winter term financial aid

Please be sure that the bank account information attached to your U-M Direct Deposit account is accurate. If your bank account has changed or the number is incorrect, your financial aid refund cannot be disbursed and your aid will be delayed.

Log into Wolverine Access (https://wolverineaccess.umich.edu) and visit the Payroll & Compensation > Direct Deposit page to verify your bank information and make any changes.

The customer service staff at the U-M Shared Services Center handles inquiries about Direct Deposit. If you have questions, call (734) 615-2000 (select Option 2) or email payroll@umich.edu (include your eight-digit UMID number). Online, visit www.finance.umich.edu/finops/payroll/contact/customerservice for additional help.

Student bills due Jan. 8: Pending aid represents estimate of expected aid

Winter term student billing for tuition, fees, and on-campus housing/meals are issued in mid-December and will be due on January 8, 2020.

Because bills are generated before financial aid is credited to your account, a special category called Pending Aid displays at the bottom of the bill to represent financial aid not yet posted. Pending Aid is the amount of financial aid U-M expects to credit to your account based on your notice.

The Amount Due is the sum of charges on your student account. Subtract Pending Aid from your Amount Due to determine what you owe for winter term.

If you have enrolled full-time (wait-listed and not-for-credit classes do not count) and signed the required documents (such as your federal loan documents) by December 13, 2019, any awarded financial aid will be subtracted from the Amount Due at disbursement and will appear as detail in the "Credits, Payments and Financial Aid" section.

To access your student bill online:

- Visit Wolverine Access (https://wolverineaccess.umich.edu/), and select the Student tab and "Student Business".
- Log on using U-M uniqname and kerberos password.
- Select Student Center tab.
- Select "Account Inquiry" under the Finances section.
- Select the Invoice/eBill to be viewed, denoted by date.

Important exceptions:

Some sources of aid, such as third-party credits, private loans and private scholarships for which funds have not yet been received, will not appear as pending aid. (They will appear on your student account when funds are received and applied.) If they have not appeared by the date due, pay the Amount Due to avoid receiving a late fee.

Do your parents need a Friend Account?

You may authorize up to four persons to view your student bill and financial aid information. Under student business, visit the Student Center and select Parent/Family Authorization. You can also sign up your friends and family to receive this Office of Financial Aid newsletter.

Holiday hours & services

Some University of Michigan offices have special hours and/or limited services before the holiday break. We encourage you to resolve any situations and/or receive answers to your questions with regard to student services and financial aid (including emergency aid funds) by **Friday, December 13, 2019**. If you are not sure whether a particular office will be open or able to serve your needs before the holiday break, it is best to call first.

The Office of Financial Aid and Wolverine Services will be closed December 25 through January 1. The office will reopen at 8 a.m. on January 2, 2020.

Many offices close or significantly reduce services after 3 p.m. on December 24. Please plan accordingly.

Get the Michigan app – on Android or iOS

Stay connected to U-M with the official University of Michigan app (find the download at http://mobileapps.its.umich.edu/um-apps)

In addition to key financial aid information, get news, events, locations, class resources, and more. Look up a person or bus route, find an available computer lab and see what's on the menu at your favorite dining hall. Opt in for the news you want to receive on your mobile device.

Receiving your financial aid for winter yerm 2020

WHEN:

First winter term payments will be deposited in bank accounts (if you have Direct Deposit) on or before:

MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2020

If you do not have Direct Deposit, checks will be mailed on this date to your current address as listed on your Wolverine Access portal.)

HOW: Follow these steps to ensure you receive your aid:

- ✓ **Register at least half-time** (6 hours for undergraduates and 4 hours for graduate students) by **5 p.m**. on **December 27, 2019**, to have expected aid funds directly deposited on **January 6, 2020**.
- ✓ After **January 7**, students who register by 5 p.m. on Wednesday of any given week should receive their refunds the Monday following their registration.
- ✓ **Put your name on your mailbox!** Be sure your name is on your mailbox before December 15, 2019.
- ✓ **Financial aid funds are applied** toward the **current term** tuition, fees, and residence hall charges appearing on your student account; any excess funds will be refunded to you by Direct Deposit (the university's preferred method of payment; sign up in Wolverine Access) or by check mailed to your current (local) address listed on Wolverine Access.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- At the time of disbursement, if you are enrolled less than full-time but at least half-time, all of your financial aid funds (except Direct Loans) will be prorated and reduced based on your level of enrollment (you will receive aid awards proportional to the number of hours you take).
- Any refund you are owed resulting from cash payments will not automatically be sent to you. Instead, a credit will appear on your account. You can have the refund released to you by contacting Student Financial Services.
- Enroll by the three week drop/add date to be considered for aid for that course, even if your program or individual mini-course has a flexible enrollment policy.

Is winter term the first time you are receiving aid this academic year? Be sure that you have:

- Received a 2019-2020 Financial Aid Notice.
- Provided all other documents requested by the Office of Financial Aid. Find the list in Wolverine Access (https://wolverineaccess.umich.edu).
- Completed entrance counseling at https://StudentLoans.gov for your Direct Loan(s) if you are an entering undergraduate or graduate student. We are notified when this is completed.
- Completed a Direct Loan Master Promissory Note (at https://StudentLoans.gov), if you were awarded Direct Loan funds. *Note: If you have completed a Master Promissory Note at U-M and received a loan within the last 12 months, do not complete another.*
- Completed a Health Professions, and/or Nursing Student Loan Master Promissory Note and a Rights and Responsibilities Statement if you were awarded any of these loan funds (see Wolverine Access: Students > Student Business > Financial Aid > Aid Year 2020 > Loans).
- Resolved any academic holds. Aid cannot be paid until the holds are lifted.

Winter enrollment: You will not receive aid for wait-listed classes

When you register, note that credit hours for wait-listed courses (marked with an orange triangle on your class schedule) are not included in your credit hour total. So while you may intend to enroll full-time, your course load may be considered part-time as you wait to be admitted to the wait-listed class.

How does this affect your financial aid?

Your financial aid is based on full-time enrollment and will be reviewed at the three week drop/add deadline of January 28, and you must be enrolled at least half-time (six hours for undergraduates, four hours for graduate students) to receive aid. If you are enrolled at least half-time but less than full-time, all of your financial aid (except Direct Loans) will be prorated and reduced to reflect this.

What to expect if you have a wait-listed class:

- If you are already enrolled for 12 or more hours and have an additional wait-listed class, your aid will be fully disbursed because you are considered full-time.
- When bills for winter term are issued, your pending financial aid will be based on the number of credit hours you are taking, minus the wait-listed class. Wait-listed class charges will not appear on this bill.
- When financial aid is paid, aid will be prorated based on the number of credit hours you are taking. If you have scholarship(s) requiring full-time enrollment, you will not receive those funds until you are enrolled full-time.
- Once you are admitted to the wait-listed class, your enrollment level will be adjusted and the balance of your aid will be paid to you. You will then be billed for the class.

Continuing U-M students:
How to apply for 2020-2021 fall/winter aid

- **October 1, 2019:** The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at https://fafsa.gov opened to be considered for all aid programs. You will use your 2018 family income tax returns, so you may transfer IRS data directly to the FAFSA using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool. Continuing students do not complete a CSS Profile, unless requested.

  We urge all students to submit their FAFSA no later than February 1. We may need additional materials from your family and all materials MUST be received by March 31 to receive priority consideration for available aid funding. Whenever possible, families should file the FAFSA in November, December or January to allow for ample time if corrections are required or additional materials need to be submitted.

- **Parent information and signatures:** Dependent students and those applying for a Health Professions Loan must provide parents' income information, birth dates, Social Security numbers, and one parent signature on the FAFSA. Failing to do this will result in a rejected FAFSA, which can jeopardize your priority for aid.

- **Once you submit your FAFSA:**

  a. If you provide an email address on your FAFSA, the Department of Education will send your Student Aid Report (SAR) by email.

  b. We will send you an email, to your umich email address, if additional application documents are required (you can also check Wolverine Access: Student Business > Financial Aid > Aid Year 2021 > Documents/Review). If additional documents are requested, we must **receive** them by March 31.

  c. Our office will send you an email when your financial aid notice is available on Wolverine Access.

- **Update your scholarship profile and apply for scholarships:**

  Visit http://finaid.umich.edu/scholarships-at-u-m for information about need-based scholarships requiring an application and complete "My Scholarship Profile" in Wolverine Access to keep your information up to date.

Enrollment reminder for all aid recipients

Enrolling in courses is not enough to secure your financial aid:

- **You must be enrolled by the Drop/Add deadline** (census date) or you won't get any aid.
- **You must participate/attend all courses in which you enroll.** Any student receiving a non-passing grade (any grade other than A, B, C, D, or P) will be reviewed to ensure that he or she participated in the course throughout the semester.
- **Failure to attend can be expensive. Your aid could be reduced retroactively and you could be required to repay aid you have received.** This includes mini courses that start later in the term. Contact us before dropping them, as it may reduce your aid.

If you have questions about your enrollment and eligibility, contact us.

PLUS apps affected by credit freeze

Are you considering a Federal Direct PLUS Loan for 2020 winter term? Due to recent credit breaches and concerns, some students and parents may have placed credit freezes on their accounts with the three major credit reporting agencies.

Please be aware that this can affect the ability for the U.S. Department of Education to complete a credit inquiry and approve your loan. Without approval, we will not be able to process your loan.

If you are considering a PLUS Loan and have placed a "freeze" on your credit file, you will need to temporarily remove that freeze to allow your PLUS loan to process. Please contact your credit bureaus before beginning the PLUS loan process. PLUS loans are available to parents of undergraduate students and graduate students who need additional funds to cover education expenses.

PLUS applications are available online at https://studentloans.gov, where you may also complete a master promissory note, if needed. For more information, visit the Federal Student Aid website (https://studentaid.ed.gov/types/loans/plus).

If you have any questions about this loan program or other financial aid information, please contact our office.

Wolverine Services

Wolverine Services is now up and running in its newly renovated office space in the SAB second floor lobby. The area features a new design that emphasizes privacy while updating the existing infrastructure in the desk and waiting sections.

The Wolverine Services team provides assistance with most Office of the Registrar and Office of Financial Aid forms, questions, and requests. The office is open to serve students from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday – Friday. No appointment necessary.