Go Blue Guarantee for U-M tuition takes effect on January 1

The U-M Go Blue Guarantee takes effect on Jan. 1, 2018 for Michigan resident undergraduates on the Ann Arbor campus with family incomes of $65,000 or less and with assets below $50,000.

For eligible students, financial aid packages will include scholarships and grants totaling at least the cost of tuition and mandatory university fees assessed each semester for up to four years for students who meet the income and asset criteria and who are:
- Michigan residents who are eligible for in-state tuition rates
- Eligible to apply for financial aid
- Pursuing their first bachelor’s degree

The Go Blue Guarantee is made up of a variety of awards that could include: Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Opportunity Grant, state of Michigan Competitive Scholarship, institutional scholarships and grants (including U-M Grant and M-Pact) and non-UM tuition scholarships and grants.

Added together, the total of these awards make up the guarantee. Although most students will not see a separate “Go Blue Guarantee” award on their Financial Aid Award Notice, some students may see a “Go Blue Grant” line item if there is a gap between grants and scholarships and tuition/fee costs. This grant will fill that gap so that full tuition and mandatory fees are covered.

To qualify for the Go Blue Guarantee each year, students must apply for financial aid by our priority deadline of April 30 and provide any additional, requested documents by June 1. Students who do not meet these deadlines are not eligible for the guarantee.

Visit our website (finaid.umich.edu/go-blue-guarantee-eligibility) for details about the eligibility and conditions of the Go Blue Guarantee, including other frequently asked questions about this university initiative.

New for 2018 Spring/Summer: Aid to be awarded on a rolling basis

The Office of Financial Aid is changing the financial aid application process for Spring/Summer 2018. Instead of a set deadline, applications will begin to be accepted on Feb. 1, 2018 with financial aid awards being made upon application, assuming full-time enrollment. Aid will be awarded on a rolling, first-come, first-served basis.

Although grant funding for Spring/Summer terms is always more limited than the regular Fall/Winter school year, funds are expected to be even more limited in 2018 than in years past.

This change will allow us to 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. The Office of Financial Aid suggests that students consider their individual financial situations as they consider attending Spring/Summer terms.
Now available: New tool helps students track financial aid eligibility

A new tool for U-M undergraduate students tracks grant and scholarship eligibility, how much time is left on their federal loan subsidies and whether they are meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress which is required for students to receive aid.

The Eligibility Information panel can be found to the far right side of the financial aid section of the Wolverine Access secure student portal (wolverineaccess.umich.edu). Graduate students will see the panel, but will be referred to their respective financial aid offices on campus for information.

The panel features several sections and what appears for each individual student will vary depending on whether they are borrowing federal loans, have subsidized loans and whether they have grant eligibility.

Verify bank account to ensure Winter Term financial aid

It is important to verify the bank account information attached to your Direct Deposit account with U-M. 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 8-digit UMID number). Online, visit www.finance.umich.edu/finops/payroll/contact/customerservice for additional help.

Student bills due Jan. 3: Pending aid represents estimate of expected aid

Winter Term student billing for tuition, fees, and on-campus room/board are issued in mid-December and will be due on Jan. 3, 2018.

Because bills are issued 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 Award 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 Dec. 16, 2017, 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?

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

Holiday office 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, Dec. 12, 2017. 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 will be CLOSED:

Dec. 12 @ 1:30 p.m.
Dec. 25 – Jan. 1 (through the Winter Break)

The office will reopen @ 8 a.m. on Jan. 2.
Receiving your financial aid for Winter Term 2018

WHEN:  
First Winter Term Disbursement will be deposited in bank accounts (for those with direct deposit) on or before:

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2017**  
(For those without Direct Deposit, checks will be mailed on this date.)

HOW:  
Follow these steps at right 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 Dec. 22, 2017, to have expected aid funds directly deposited on December 28, 2017.
- After Jan. 3, 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 Dec. 15, 2017.
- **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 drop/add date to be considered for aid for that course, even if your program 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 2017-2018 financial aid Award 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 Perkins, 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 2018 > 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 you must be enrolled at least half-time (6 hours for undergraduates, 4 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 2018-2019 Fall/Winter aid

January 2018: The Office of Financial Aid will send you an email reminding you to apply with links to 2018-2019 application forms and deadline dates.

- **Oct. 1, 2017 – April 30, 2018:** Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at https://fafsa.gov to be considered for all aid programs. You will use your 2016 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 PROFILE, unless requested.
  
  *Allow plenty of processing time to meet the priority aid deadline of April 30.*

- **Parent Information and Signatures:** Dependent students and those applying for 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 if additional application documents are required (you can also check Wolverine Access: Student Business > Financial Aid > Aid Year 2019 > Documents/Review). If additional documents are requested, we must receive them by June 1.
  c. Our office will send you an email when your financial aid Award Notice is available on Wolverine Access.

- **Update your scholarship profile and apply for scholarships:**
  
  Visit https://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.

PLUS apps affected by credit freeze

Are you considering a Federal Direct PLUS Loan for 2018 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.

Our office can no longer give aid information to scholarship providers

New changes by the U.S. Department of Education restricts our office from sharing data provided on the FAFSA with anyone other than a student or parent, even if students offer their permission. This means that when a scholarship provider contacts our office, we will no longer be able to share your information.

Students can directly share copies of their Financial Aid Award Notice and registration receipt if a scholarship provider requests it. Visit the Student Center in Wolverine Access (https://wolverineaccess.umich.edu) and download a PDF version of your Award Notice for the appropriate aid year. You can then mail the information directly to your scholarship provider, as requested.

ENROLLMENT REMINDER

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 also attend the courses in which you enroll.** The Office of Financial Aid is required to verify that students who receive a non-passing grade (any grade other than A, B, C, D, or P) in any class actually began attending the class.

- **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.