

Students receiving financial aid are responsible for reading and understanding this information.

FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid at Southern Oregon University consists of scholarships, loans, grants, and work-study employment. Applying ahead of time is the key to being considered for many of these funds. You can apply for aid by filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid ([FAFSA](#)).

In addition to awarding financial aid, SOU provides financial aid counseling. For questions, please call the Enrollment Services Center (ESC) at 541-552-6600 or 800-482-7672. Our office is open Monday to Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

FEDERAL AID ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for federal aid, you must:

- Be admitted with the intent to pursue a degree,
- Be a U.S. citizen, holder of a permanent resident visa, or be an eligible non-citizen,
- Not be in default on a federal loan or owe on a grant,
- Register for selective service (male students only),
- Not receive federal financial aid funding from more than one institution in any given term.

If selected for verification, you must supply documentation before any aid is released. Always keep a signed copy of tax forms you file.

Dependent students must provide parental information on the FAFSA. To be independent for aid purposes, under the age of twenty-four, you must be one of the following:

- married,
- a fully admitted graduate student,
- currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training,
- a veteran,
- providing more than half of the support for your children,
- providing more than half of the support for other dependents who live with you,
- an orphan, in foster care, or a ward or dependent of the court on or after the age of 13,
- an emancipated minor, in legal guardianship, an unaccompanied homeless youth or an unaccompanied youth who was self-supporting and at risk of being homeless.

APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID

To file the FAFSA, you must first obtain a [FSA ID](#) (to use as your electronic signature, which will also be used to sign Promissory Notes and confirm student loan counseling) and then complete the [FAFSA](#).

New first year and transfer students apply for SOU scholarships via the [Admissions application](#) and the [SOSA](#) (Southern Online Scholarship Application). Continuing students may also apply for SOU scholarships on the [SOSA](#). Oregon residents apply for OSAC (Office of Student Access and Completion) scholarships at [OregonStudentAid](#).

APPLICATION DEADLINES

For “first consideration” for many of the financial aid funds, you should file the FAFSA as early as possible, starting October 1st. After you have been formally admitted to SOU, and your financial aid application is in a finalized status (no outstanding requirements), you can expect an award offer beginning March or April. You may still apply after March 1. By applying late, however, you run the risk that some aid funds will be depleted.

REPORT CHANGES PROMPTLY

You are required to report the following changes to the SOU Financial Aid Office at finaid@sou.edu:

- Changes affecting household size, income, marital status,
- Additional scholarships, private loans, assistance from other agencies, gifts of money or other resources,
- Changes in your enrollment plans, residency status or where you are living,
- Changes to your email and mailing address.

If you fail to report changes, you may have to repay funds.

IMPORTANT SUMMER INFORMATION

Summer Session is the last term of the academic year. Summer 2016 is **not** the beginning of the 2016-17 year at SOU. Therefore, if summer is the first term you will attend or apply for financial aid at SOU, two FAFSAs are required. The 2015-16 FAFSA must be completed for Summer 2016 (June–September), and the 2016-17 FAFSA must be completed for the academic year beginning Fall term 2016 and ending with Summer 2017.

During Summer Session, aid is limited and may only include Direct Loan/Pell Grant eligibility remaining from the prior academic year. Transfer students in particular need to check whether they will have remaining eligibility.

Apply for your remaining aid for Summer Session by submitting the Summer Aid Request form, available each May on the www.sou.edu/enrollment/financial-aid website.

IMPORTANT WEB SITES

www.fafsa.ed.gov
www.studentaid.gov
www.sou.edu/admissions
www.sou.edu/enrollment/financial-aid

IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Apply for Admission to SOU
- File the FAFSA beginning October
- List SOU (Code 003219) on the FAFSA

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GRANTS

Federal Pell Grant • up to 5,815 for 2016-2017

The Pell Grant is the principal federal grant. Like all grant funds, it is a monetary gift and does not have to be repaid. It is available to low-income undergraduate students. When you file the FAFSA, the federal government will indicate your eligibility for the Pell Grant in your Student Aid Report (SAR). Pell Grant funds are available to eligible full-time and part-time admitted students.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) • up to \$1,000 a year

The FSEOG is a federal grant for Pell-eligible students.

Oregon Opportunity Grant • up to \$2,250 for 2016-2017

OSAC will consider undergraduate students who are Oregon residents for these awards. The grants are based on financial need and are renewable annually. Students must meet satisfactory academic progress requirements. Part-time students receive a prorated amount. To be eligible for this grant, you cannot be in default or owe money on Title IV aid at any institution.

Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) • Up to \$3,728 a year

This grant is available to students who plan to become teachers and agree to serve as full-time teachers at certain schools and within certain high-need fields for at least four academic years within eight years of completing the course of study for which a grant was received. Applicants must meet certain academic standards and fill out a separate application, available at www.sou.edu/enrollment/financial-aid/grants.

Important Note: If you do not carry out the obligation to serve, the TEACH grants received convert to a Direct unsubsidized loan that must be repaid with retroactive interest.

WORK

Federal Work-Study (FWS) • up to \$3,000 a year

The Federal Work-Study Program encourages community service by providing jobs on campus and at approved nonprofit agencies in the community. Earnings from these jobs can help pay for educational expenses. You should apply for work-study by filing the FAFSA early and selecting interest in work-study on the FAFSA.

Work-study is available to high-need undergraduate and graduate students. Students awarded FWS dollars will need to complete the required referral forms before beginning work. Most students work approximately ten hours a week with the rate of pay depending on the type of job and the level of experience required. Work-study students receive monthly paychecks based on the number of hours worked.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Last year, SOU students received more than \$4 million in scholarships. Academic achievement, outstanding service and performance, and financial need form the basis for selection. Most scholarships require full-time attendance.

There are three basic types of scholarships: institutional, departmental and private. In addition, students often receive scholarships from their high schools or community organizations.

- Explore scholarship funding through SOU Financial Aid <http://www.sou.edu/enrollment/financial-aid/scholarships/index.html>
- SOSA <http://www.sou.edu/sosa/index.html>
- OSAC www.oregonstudentaid.gov

LOANS

Direct loans are provided by the U.S. Department of Education with separate requirements, loan limits and repayment options for each type of loan.

Federal Direct Subsidized Loans

This loan is a deferred-interest loan (interest does not accrue while the student is attending half-time or more). The eligible borrowers for this type of loan are:

- students with financial “need” as determined by the FAFSA
- both dependent and independent students
- only available to undergraduate students
- students must be attending at least half-time to be eligible

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans

This loan does accrue interest while the student is attending school. The interest can be paid while in school, or it can be capitalized and paid later. There is not a “need-based” requirement for this type of loan. The eligible borrowers for this type of loan are:

- both dependent and independent students
- both undergraduate and graduate students
- students must be attending at least half-time to be eligible

Federal Direct Unsubsidized & (Subsidized) Maximums

	Dependent student	Independent student
1st-year undergraduate	\$5,500 (\$3,500)*	\$9,500 (\$3,500)
2nd-year undergraduate	\$6,500 (\$4,500)	\$10,500 (\$4,500)
3rd- and 4th-year undergraduate	\$7,500 (\$5,500)	\$12,500 (\$5,500)
Graduate	NA	\$20,500 (NA)

AVAILABLE AID PROGRAMS

Students who are not eligible for a subsidized loan (based upon “financial need” from the FAFSA) may borrow up to the combined totals shown above in an unsubsidized loan.

Below are the aggregate (total) limits for Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans:

- \$31,000 for dependent undergraduate students excluding those whose parents are unable to borrow a PLUS Loan (no more than \$23,000 may be subsidized)
- \$57,500 for independent undergraduate students and dependent undergraduates whose parents are unable to borrow a PLUS loan (no more than \$23,000 may be subsidized)
- \$138,500 for graduate or professional students (no more than \$23,000 may be subsidized; includes loans for undergraduate study)

Federal Direct **PLUS** Loan

There are two types of **PLUS** Loans: a Parent PLUS, available to all parents of dependent students regardless of income level; and a GRAD PLUS, available to students admitted in a Master’s graduate program. PLUS borrowing is limited to either biological parent (whether they are on the FAFSA or not) a stepparent (if they are listed on the FAFSA) or graduate students who do not have an adverse credit history. The student must be enrolled half time or more. The loan is not need-based and there are no aggregate loan limits. Interest does accrue while student is attending.

A separate online application and Master Promissory Note is

required to obtain a PLUS loan, at www.studentloans.gov. Please allow extra processing time. Students whose parents are not eligible to borrow under the PLUS program (due to adverse credit) can borrow at the independent student levels. Please contact the Financial Aid Office if interested in this option.

Loan Process

All first-time student borrowers must complete loan entrance counseling online and must sign a master promissory note. Repayment begins six months after a student graduates, leaves school, or drops below half-time enrollment. Parent PLUS loan repayment begins sixty days after the last disbursement for the year, but parents may contact the Direct Loan Servicer about deferring loan repayment until 6 months after the student ceases enrollment on at least a half-time basis.

The interest rate may vary, but for first time borrowers in the current rates are:

Subsidized 3.76%; Unsubsidized 3.76%; PLUS 6.31%

A small origination fee is deducted from each disbursement. Graduate students must be fully admitted to a master’s program to borrow at the graduate amount.

Loan Exit Counseling

Prior to graduation or after transferring out, Direct loan borrowers must complete online loan exit counseling. This process reviews the information students received at the time of borrowing, including how to manage loan debt, average monthly payments, and various repayment options.

ESTIMATED 2016-17 COST OF ATTENDANCE (COA OR BUDGET) *

Expenses	Residents of Oregon			Non-Residents of Oregon		
	Undergraduates Living On Campus	Undergraduates Living with Parents	Graduates †	Undergraduates Living On Campus	WUE Living On Campus	Graduates †
Tuition and Fees	8,358	8,358	12,411	22,983	11,733	15,111
Books and Supplies	999	999	999	999	999	999
Housing and Meals	12,756	3,603	9,699	12,756	12,756	9,699
Personal Expenses	3,252	3,252	3,252	3,252	3,252	3,252
Total	25,365	16,212	26,361	39,990	28,740	29,061

* Until approved by the State Board of Higher Education, all tuition and fee estimates are subject to change.

Note: These budgets are based on 3 terms (Fall/Winter/Spring) of enrollment and are based on **estimated** student expenses; your actual costs will vary depending upon the number of credit hours you enroll in, the cost of your books, and your own personal spending habits. The student must request an individual review for budget adjustments. Budget increases may be allowed to help with the one-time purchase of a personal computer. Applicants with childcare costs may request that an allowance be built into their budget at \$400 per month for each child aged 0-5 years, and \$200 per month for each child aged 6-12 years needing after-school care. Part-time students receive a prorated allowance.

† Graduate budget figures are used only for students admitted to a master's degree program. Post baccalaureate students and those pursuing a second undergraduate degree are given an undergraduate budget. Graduate room and board figures are for off campus housing.

HOW THE AID PROCESS WORKS

ELIGIBILITY

Students are considered for federal, state, institutional and campus-based funds if admitted to SOU and the completed FAFSA application (listing SOU) is processed by the federal processor. Funds include loans, grants, work-study and institutional scholarships.

The EFC figure is shown on the Student Aid Report (SAR), which is the document applicants receive from the federal processor after filing the FAFSA.

The EFC figure is then subtracted from the estimated Cost of Attendance (COA or budget) for the academic year. The remaining figure is the student's financial eligibility or need.

Students with the lowest EFC are awarded campus-based funds until those funds are fully exhausted. Direct Loans and the Pell Grant remain available all year.

AWARDING OF FUNDS

SOU funding policy is (a) to first fund students with the lowest analyzed family contribution and (b) to fund fully within our institutional policy limits. We attempt to fully meet the student's financial eligibility from the available funds. Below is a sample package for a high-need, dependent, on-time filer of sophomore standing.

COA (budget for Oregon resident)	25,365
EFC (Estimated Family Contribution).....	1,431
Need or Eligibility	23,934
Federal Pell Grant.....	4,365
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)	1000
Oregon Opportunity Grant.....	2,250
SOU Affordability Grant	1,200
Federal Work-Study (FWS).....	3,000
Federal Direct Subsidized Stafford Loan.....	4,500
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan.....	2,000
Federal Direct PLUS Loan	7,050
Total aid award	25,365

AID DISBURSEMENT

Aid is available during the scheduled fee payment period at the start of each term. You must be registered in the required number of hours to receive your aid. Waitlisted and audited classes do not count for aid disbursement purposes. Aid is adjusted if enrollment differs at the census date (the end of the 2nd week of the term).

Available financial aid is credited to your student billing account. Once tuition, fees, and residence hall charges (if applicable) have been paid in full, any remaining financial aid is refunded to you. For refund options, go to www.sou.edu/souone.

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

By federal law, you are required to make Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) toward degree completion. Academic progress is reviewed at the end of each term for all students enrolled as Undergraduate, Post-Baccalaureate (Post-Bac) or Graduate students at SOU. Below is an overview of our SAP policy.

Additional details are available
www.sou.edu/enrollment/financial-aid.

The first time a student fails to meet SAP standards for a term, the student will be placed on *Financial Aid Warning* status, but will remain eligible to receive financial aid. If a student fails to meet the SAP standards the term following the *Financial Aid Warning* the student will be in *Financial Aid Denied* status for financial aid purposes. When a student goes into *Financial Aid Denied* they have the option to appeal.

Minimum GPA Requirement

Undergraduate and Post-Bac students at Southern Oregon University must maintain the following minimum term and cumulative GPAs in accordance with the SOU catalog and as administered by the Registrar's Office. Students must maintain a 2.0 "term" and a 2.0 SOU "cumulative" GPA.

Graduate students must maintain at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA.

Credit Completion Rate Standard

Students must complete 67% of all credits attempted at SOU.

- Attempted credits are defined as all classes for which a student receives a passing grade (D - or better, or P); or an F, I, W, NC, E, M, WF or NP. Credits dropped after the end of the 2nd week of classes (the census date), for which they were funded for financial aid purposes are also included as attempted credits.
- Completed credits are defined as all classes for which a student receives a passing grade of D - or better, or P.
- Developmental credits (Math 65, Math 95, etc.) and repeated courses count as credits attempted and completed.
- Audit credits do not count as credits attempted or completed.

Maximum Credit Standard (150% Rule)

The maximum "attempted" credits (defined above) allowed by federal regulation for degree or certificate completion is 150% of the attempted credits needed to complete that type of degree. Students who have attempted 125% of their program's required credits will be asked to complete a Progress Toward Graduation plan to outline the required credits and additional terms needed to complete their program. If this plan exceeds 150% of the required credits, students will need to explain and document the extenuating circumstances that have requiring the extension.

RETURN OF FEDERAL AID

If you receive Federal financial aid but you do not earn all attempted credits at the end of the term, you may be required to pay back a portion of your aid (mandated by the Higher Education Amendments of 1998). You will be notified of this repayment by letter.

If you are entitled to a tuition or housing refund, that amount will be used to repay federal aid sources first. If you owe SOU more than your tuition or housing refund, you will receive a billing statement from SOU showing the balance owed.

If you are required to repay a portion of the aid you have received, we will return the funds to the Federal Government on your behalf, and you will owe the balance due to Southern Oregon University. You will be able to pay this amount due in person, or online. Payment arrangements may be available by contacting SOU Collections (part of the Business Services Office) in the Enrollment Services Center.