FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

http://www.miami.edu/admission/index.php/ofas/

The Office of Student Financial Assistance (http://www6.miami.edu/ofas) and Employment (https://www.miami.edu/ofas) administers federal, state, private and University financial assistance programs. Our office awards financial assistance for Undergraduate and Graduate/Professional students. We communicate with our students mainly through the CaneLink (https://canelink.miami.edu) system regarding any information we might need in order to complete the financial aid process. Medical students should contact their respective financial aid office.

Office of Student Financial Assistance and Employment
P.O. Box 248187
Coral Gables, FL 33124-5240
Telephone: 305-284-6000
Fax: 305-284-4082
Hours of Operation:
Monday-Friday (8:30 am - 5:00 pm EST)

Undergraduate

Undergraduate Financial Assistance

It is the purpose of the Office of Student Financial Assistance and Employment to provide need base assistance and/or academic achievement awards to qualified students in the form of scholarships, grants, loans and work programs (http://www.miami.edu/index.php/office_of_financial_assistance/ug/ug_aid) to the extent that resources are available. Professional financial aid and student employment advisors are ready to assist all students plan for the most efficient use of their financial resources for education.

Underlying the awarding of need-based financial assistance is the philosophy that the student and family have the primary responsibility for educational costs. Need-based financial assistance serves to supplement these primary resources.

• Students who require financial assistance in order to attend the University should apply for assistance each academic year.
• Candidates for admission should indicate their interest in financial assistance by checking the box provided for that purpose in the application for admission.
• The U.S. Department of Education's Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) is used to determine eligibility for federal need based assistance. The FAFSA must be completed for each academic year.
• Beginning with students who entered during the 2014-2015 academic year (including readmitted students) the College Board's CSS Financial Aid PROFILE Application is required to determine institutional need based financial aid awards. The PROFILE application must be completed each academic year to determine renewal eligibility.
• Admission Application Option (App Deadline)
• PROFILE, Prior Year Tax Transcripts and W-2's Deadline
• FAFSA Deadline
• Current Year Tax Transcripts and W-2's Deadline

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Important Financial Aid Tips

• Financial aid applications are accepted throughout the year but it is important to note that the appropriate preference date for receipt of aid applications must be met as aid is awarded on a funds available basis.
• DO NOT WAIT FOR YOUR ADMISSION DECISION TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID. Financial aid resources are limited and there is no guarantee of assistance for students who do not submit appropriate documentation by the deadline posted above. Your financial aid application will not be considered complete until all documents are received.
• Apply for an FSA ID from the Department of Education early: https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm.
• Keep a checklist and copies of all forms submitted. Put the applicant's name and UM ID# on all forms submitted.
• Use your best estimate of current income information when completing the FAFSA and PROFILE if your federal tax returns have not been completed by the application deadline. Submit your complete current year federal tax transcripts to our office by April 15.
• If you are not required to file a federal tax return and will not be filing, please notify us in writing.

Financial Aid Census Date

Effective Fall 2014, financial aid awards will be set according to a census date or date of fixed enrollment. All financial aid awards will be set according to the enrollment in effect at the close of business on the last day of the drop/add period each regular term semester. No adjustments will be made to the financial aid awards for any enrollment changes (increases or decreases) made after this date with two exceptions:

1. Bright Futures awards will continue to be adjusted (increased or decreased) according to any change in the enrolled credit hours.
2. The aid award package for students with federal financial aid and who completely withdraw (drop to 0 credit hours enrolled) will be adjusted according to the regulatory required Return To Title IV Calculation.

Graduate/Professional
Graduate and Doctoral Students

It is the purpose of the Office of Student Financial Assistance and Employment to provide federal financial aid assistance to qualified students in the form of loans and work programs (http://www.miami.edu/index.php/office_of_financial_assistance/ug/ug_aid) to the extent that resources are available. Professional financial aid and student employment advisors are ready to assist all students plan for the most efficient use of their financial resources for education. Law, Graduate and Doctoral students need only complete a few steps in order to receive notification and disbursement of federal awards.

1. Apply for Admission to a Graduate Program or the Law Program at the University of Miami.
2. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
3. Accept, reduce or decline your awarded aid via CaneLink.
   a. First-time loan borrowers must complete Entrance Counseling at the Department of Education website (http://www.studentloans.gov).
   b. A signed Promissory Note for both the Unsubsidized and the Graduate PLUS Loan are required if either loan is utilized. Each should be completed at the Department of Education website (http://www.studentloans.gov).
   c. Students receiving the Graduate PLUS Loan must have an approved credit check conducted by the Department of Education in order for the loan to be disbursed.

Your financial aid award may consist of loans, scholarships, tuition waivers or a combination. Aid is offered to a student’s maximum eligibility as determined by enrollment and the Cost of Attendance (COA).

Some of the aid programs which may be offered to a Law, Graduate or Doctoral student:

**Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan**: the interest becomes due to the student upon the disbursement of the funds. However, a student may choose to capitalize the interest which will accrue and result in additional indebtedness when repayment begins. Eligibility is not based on need and is up to $20,500 for an academic year.

**Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan**: Borrowers may be eligible to request up to the cost of attendance minus other financial aid. Your award letter includes your maximum loan eligibility for the Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan. This loan is based on the borrower not having an adverse credit history. Once you have accepted the offered loan amount on CaneLink, a credit check will be conducted by the US Department of Education. You will be required to have completed a Master Promissory Notice as well as Entrance Counseling (first time borrowers only). In the event your loan is declined, you have the option of appealing that decision or reapplying with an endorser; however, the Department of Education will then require you complete Credit Counseling in order to approve the disbursement of your loan.

**First-time borrowers** will need to complete the online Federal Direct Stafford Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN) and Loan Entrance Counseling with the Department of Education. Students may complete all federal student loan applications and entrance counseling at the Department of Education website (http://www.studentloans.gov).

**Scholarships and Tuition Waivers** are exclusively handled by the respective department. Our office is notified of scholarships/waivers by the department and it is then added to your award package. Adjustments to your Graduate PLUS Loan and/or other aid may take place upon notification to prevent an over award of aid.

In order to receive a graduate assistantship or fellowship, a graduate student must:
- Be admitted unconditionally to a post-baccalaureate degree program;
- Be enrolled for full-time study; and
- Maintain a cumulative graduate grade point average of 3.0 or above.

For additional information, please visit the Law School Website at www.law.miami.edu (http://www.law.miami.edu) or the Graduate School Website at www.miiami.edu/grad (http://www.miiami.edu/grad).

For specific information regarding graduate programs, contact the Graduate Advisor of the respective program. For information regarding loan and work-study opportunities, visit the Office Student Financial Assistance and Employment website at www.miami.edu/ofas (http://www.miami.edu/ofas).

**Graduate Online**

For United States citizens and eligible non-citizens, federal financial aid is available for online programs.

- Applying for Financial Aid (http://www.miami.edu/index.php/office_of_financial_assistance/g/g_applying), UM
- Costs and Financial Aid (http://www.miami.edu/gs/index.php/graduateSchool/costs_and_financialAid), UM

**Eligibility**

Please see the University’s Financial Aid (p. 1) website for eligibility criteria.

- http://www.miami.edu/index.php/office_of_financial_assistance/g/g_applying/eligibility/

**Applying for Financial Aid**

To apply for financial aid, submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at https://fafsa.ed.gov/. Be sure to include the University of Miami school code 001536.

http://www.miami.edu/index.php/office_of_financial_assistance/g/g_applying/g_apply/

**Awarding and Disbursing Financial Aid**

**Key Points and associated deadlines:**
- Awards are processed on a rolling basis and are done annually, one academic year at a time (3 terms per academic year: Fall, Spring and Summer).
- Students are strongly encouraged to begin the application process at least **four weeks** prior to the start date of their program or renewal date of their existing loan.
- Applications will be accepted in the **last 30 days of the term**, but the Office of Student Financial Assistance and Employment cannot be held responsible if funds are not available for disbursement for the term. Delays can occur that are outside of the control of the Office of Student Financial Assistance and Employment.
New Students
The Office of Student Financial Assistance and Employment will award Financial Aid for new students when

- FAFSA has been received
- A student has been fully admitted
- Student has enrolled in classes

Financial Aid will be disbursed only when:

- All Official transcripts have been received by the University
- After the last day to add/drop and when attendance has been confirmed

Continuing Students
The Office of Student Financial Assistance and Employment will award Financial Aid for continuing students only when

- FAFSA has been received
- The student has enrolled in classes

Financial Aid will be disbursed only when:

- After the last day to add/drop and when attendance has been confirmed.

Maintaining Eligibility, including Satisfactory Academic Progress
Students must maintain all federal aid eligibility requirements for the entire term. Please see the eligibility (http://bulletin.miami.edu/general-university-information/financial-assistance/federal-institutional-need-based-aid-sap-policy) page for specific criteria for maintaining eligibility.

http://www.miami.edu/index.php/office_of_financial_assistance/g/g_standards/