

STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

Jacksonville State University offers a broad program of financial aid to assist as many qualified students as possible. Since the University cannot meet the financial needs of all applicants, students are also urged to investigate outside sources of aid.

Most aid programs are based on the individual need of the applicant. Demonstrated financial need is determined by completing an independent, standardized need analysis form called the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on the web at www.fafsa.ed.gov. The JSU Title IV Code is 001020.

The FAFSA contains questions pertaining to the student's assets, income, year in college, etc. Students who are dependent on their parents, based on Federal Student Aid guidelines, must also submit information concerning parental income, assets, and other items.

Once the applicant completes the FAFSA, it is to be mailed to the processor or submitted via the internet (www.fafsa.ed.gov). In approximately four to six weeks, the processor sends the applicant a Student Aid Report and also forwards information to the college(s) the applicant lists to receive the data. It is the student's responsibility to check his/her JSU email and MyJSU for detailed information. The Student Aid Report is used to determine eligibility for the Federal Pell Grant and other financial aid programs, as it contains the expected family contribution to the applicant's cost of attendance.

Applicants and their parents are cautioned to complete all forms as honestly and accurately as possible. Any person who knowingly makes false statements is subject to a fine or imprisonment or both under provisions of the United States Criminal Code. Applicants are also reminded that they may be asked to substantiate information they submit on the need analysis. Each year the federal government selects approximately 30% of all applicants for verification. Those selected for verification must provide documentation, such as income tax returns, in order to receive financial aid.

Note that application for financial aid must be made for each academic year; no awards are automatically renewed from year to year. Although the University accepts applications throughout the academic year, March 15 has been established as the preference dead-line for applying for most types of assistance.

Those interested in detailed information on federal financial aid should request The Student Guide by writing the Federal Student Aid Information Center, P.O. Box 84, Washington DC 20044. Additional information may also be secured from the University Financial Aid Office, or from the Internet at www.nasfaa.org.

Note that information provided herein is of a general nature and is not intended to explain in detail all financial aid programs. Programs described herein are subject to Federal, State, and institutional guidelines and are subject to change without notice.

Students who apply for federal assistance are required to use their Social Security number for identification purposes. The U.S. Department of Education's legal right to require the use of Social Security numbers for eligibility for the Title IV programs is based on Section 484(a)(4)(B) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended. Complete information on usage of your Social Security number is located in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

Following is a brief description of the different assistance programs:

GRANTS

Grants are gifts based on need and do not have to be repaid. Students from low and lower middle income families may qualify for a grant.

Federal Pell Grant

The Federal Pell Grant is an entitlement program for undergraduate students who have not earned their first baccalaureate degree.

To apply, submit the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1 and list Jacksonville State University (Code 001020) to receive the report. Also submit a Financial Aid Data any other documentation that is required to the Financial Aid Office preferably by March 15.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

Students who are Pell eligible and who have the greatest demonstrated financial need are given first consideration for this grant. It is restricted to students who have not received their first baccalaureate degree.

To apply, submit the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1 and list Jacksonville State University (Code 001020) to receive the report. Also submit a any other documentation that is required to the Financial Aid Office preferably by March 15.

Alabama Student Assistance Program (ASAP)

Undergraduate students who have not earned their first baccalaureate degree and who have been residents of Alabama are eligible to apply for this grant. The grant is restricted to Pell eligible students with the greatest demonstrated financial need. To apply, submit the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1 and list Jacksonville State University (Code 001020) to receive the report. Also submit a Financial Aid Data Sheet, and any other documentation that is required to the Financial Aid Office preferably by March 15.

State Grants from Other Agencies

Several other states offer grants for their residents who attend college in other states. Students residing outside Alabama should contact their state grant educational agencies for information on these grants.

LOANS**The Federal Stafford Loan Program**

JSU participates in the Federal Stafford Loan Program. Repayment begins six months after the student's enrollment drops below half-time status (6 credit hours).

There are three types of Federal Stafford Student Loans: Subsidized, Unsubsidized and Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS).

Federal Stafford Subsidized Student Loan

A subsidized loan is a need-based loan. Borrowers who receive this type of loan are not required to pay the interest while he/she is enrolled at least half-time until repayment begins.

Federal Stafford Unsubsidized Student Loan

An unsubsidized loan is a non-need based program. Borrowers who receive this loan must either pay the interest while enrolled or have the interest capitalized for repayment at a later date.

Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS)

A PLUS loan is a non-need based loan. Repayment of principal and interest begins 60 days after the loan has been disbursed. Parents interested in obtaining this loan must follow the PLUS instructions from the Financial Aid Office. Students interested in receiving a PLUS loan only must first complete the FAFSA form.

To apply for a subsidized or unsubsidized loan, submit a FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1, along with a JSU Financial Aid Data Sheet and any other documentation that is required to the Financial Aid Office. The preference deadline to apply is March 15. The Financial Aid Office will notify applicants of their eligibility.

Annual Loan Limits

Annual loan limits for the Federal Stafford Student Loan Program for dependent students are:

Freshmen, \$5,500; Sophomores, \$6,500; Juniors and Seniors, \$7,500.

Annual loan limits for the Federal Stafford Student Loan Program for independent students are:

Freshmen, \$9,500; Sophomores, \$10,500; Juniors and Seniors, \$12,500; and Graduates, \$20,500.

Parents may borrow up to the cost of education on the PLUS program.

NOTE THAT UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS MUST BE ENROLLED FOR AT LEAST SIX (6) UNDERGRADUATE HOURS TO BE CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE TO BORROW A STUDENT LOAN.

FEDERAL PERKINS LOANS—JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY NO LONGER PARTICIPATES IN THE FEDERAL PERKINS LOAN PROGRAM.

CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT

Many students work part-time while attending college without sacrifice to their grades. By working, students are able to contribute to their educational expenses and at the same time gain valuable experience.

Federal Work-Study

The Federal Work-Study Program is administered through funds provided by the Federal Government and Jacksonville State University. Eligible students work up to an average of 15 hours per week and earn the minimum wage.

To apply, submit the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1, preferably before March 15, and list Jacksonville State University (Code 001020) to receive the report.

University Student Employee

Students who do not qualify for Work-Study may be eligible to work on the University Student Employee Program. Students interested in this program should contact individual departments for possible job placement. This program is not based on financial need.

Off-Campus Employment

Students desiring to find part-time work in the local area must visit the Counseling Career Services web page at www.jsu.edu/depart/ace/ccs/index.htm for current job listings.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Jacksonville State University offers various scholarships for entering freshman as well as returning students. Academic scholarships are automatically given consideration to entering freshmen based on the completed undergraduate admission, scholarship application, official high school transcripts and test scores. Most scholarships are based on the applicant's academic or extracurricular record, while some are based on demonstrated financial need. Those requesting scholarships based on need should also submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The quickest way to apply for FAFSA is online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Consult our Scholarship Listing (www.jsu/finaid) for information pertaining to individual requirements and/or restrictions of scholarships offered. Scholarship offers are subject to applicant being admitted to the University. The scholarship application period is October 1 and the deadline is March 1.

Leadership Scholarships

Leadership Scholarships are awarded to students without regard to state or national residency. Selection is based on each applicant's participation in high school activities, community service, and academic record. March 1 is the absolute deadline to apply. Leadership Scholarships pay full in-state tuition (up to 16 traditional classroom semester hours) per semester for up to two years.

Presidential Transfer Scholarship

JSU offers a Presidential Transfer Scholarship to students attending Alabama Community Colleges. The minimum requirement is a 3.5 GPA and the student has never attended JSU. Application is made through the students Community College. Additional criteria may be used by the Community College making the selection. This

scholarship pays for up to 16 in-state traditional classroom hours per Fall and Spring semesters.

Athletic and Music Scholarships

Full and partial scholarships are offered for participants in the University's Varsity Athletic Programs. Contact individual head coaches of these sports for more information, or the Athletic Office at (256) 782-5368. Full and partial tuition scholarships are offered by the University's Band/Music Department. For more information, contact the Music Department at (256) 782-5559.

Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program

The State of Alabama provides assistance to cover tuition and book expenses for persons who are members of the Alabama National Guard. Selection of recipients is made by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education. Those interested in applying should contact his/her National Guard unit commander for the necessary application.

Alabama G.I. Dependents Scholarship Program

The Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs offers financial assistance to eligible dependents (child, stepchild, spouse or unremarried widow or widower) of disabled veterans (living or deceased) who were permanent civilian residents of Alabama prior to entry into military service. Other qualifying veterans categories are former prisoners of war, declared missing in action, and those who died in service. Maximum educational benefits include tuition and required textbooks. For more information, contact the nearest Veterans Affairs Office, located in each Alabama county courthouse. The Office of Veterans Affairs is located on the first floor of Bibb Graves Hall, Room 101, to assist students.

Veterans Benefits

Eligible veterans may contact the Office of Veterans Affairs located in Bibb Graves Hall, Room 101.

Vocational Rehabilitation Assistance

Alabama residents who have disabilities may be eligible for assistance through the Vocational Rehabilitation Service. Alabama residents needing more information should contact this agency at 2127 East South Blvd., Montgomery, AL 36199. In other states offering this assistance, students should contact the agency in their state.

PACT Alabama Prepaid Affordable College Tuition Program (AL PACT)

A contract to guarantee four years of fully paid undergraduate tuition at any public community college or university in Alabama; an amount equal to the average cost of Alabama tuition will be provided for students who attend a private, or out-of-state institution. Age limits apply to students enrolled in the program. A copy of PACT Eligibility letter must be provided to JSU Scholarship office – Fax (25) 782-5476.

ROTC

The Army offers ROTC scholarships on a competitive basis for select students who are strongly motivated towards service in the United States Army and who meet all application prerequisites. Four-year scholarships are available to entering freshmen who apply as seniors in high school. Two- and three-year scholarships are awarded to outstanding students on campus. Recipients of Army ROTC scholarships incur a contractual obligation with the United States Government and must meet all Army ROTC basic and advanced course requirements for commissioning. Scholarship students who complete the Army ROTC course of instruction are commissioned as second lieutenants in the active Army, Army Reserve or Army National Guard.

These scholarships provide tuition and books up to a maximum limit. Additionally, scholarship recipients also receive a monthly stipend for a maximum of ten months of each academic year. Recipients are also required to attend a five-week advanced camp

usually during the summer after their junior year, during which time they receive pay and travel expenses.

For those Army ROTC scholarship recipients coming to JSU for the first time, competitive scholarship supplements are available. This includes free room in an on campus residence hall. Additionally, Jacksonville State University also offers two competitive scholarships for nursing students who are willing to enter and complete the ROTC program. The nursing scholarship includes tuition for the five semesters of clinicals plus free room. Contact the Professor of Military Science for specific details on these and all other Army ROTC scholarship opportunities.

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS POLICY

Federal regulations require students to be making satisfactory academic progress toward graduation while receiving financial aid. Satisfactory Academic Progress includes both qualitative and quantitative criteria. Jacksonville State University reserves the right to monitor satisfactory academic progress periodically throughout the calendar year. Please go to www.finaid.jsu.edu to view the Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy. The Policy is located under the Financial Aid forms section. Students should view the policy for the year in which he/she plans to attend.

AWARDING, ACCEPTANCE AND PAYMENT OF FINANCIAL AID

Students who are determined to be eligible for Federal Pell Grants, Federal Supplemental Grants, Federal Stafford Loans, (ASAP), and Federal Work Study will receive an Offer of Financial Aid and other documents. This assistance, and scholarships awarded by the University, is credited to the student's account and a check is issued to the student's campus mailbox for the balance.

Students may use scheduled financial aid to confirm classes and/or university housing costs if their assistance has been processed by the required payment dates. Scheduled financial aid appears on each student's bill sent by the Bursar's Office via JSU email and may be viewed on MyJSU. More detailed information on paying confirmation costs is located in the class schedule.

ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

All financial aid commitments are contingent upon actual enrollment at the University. Most programs require at least half-time status (six hours) for eligibility while the Federal Pell Grant Program requires full-time (twelve hours) for maximum benefits during the regular terms. Six hours are considered half-time during the May, Summer I and Summer II terms. Questions pertaining to individual program requirements for maximum benefits should be addressed to the Financial Aid Office.

Federal assistance is available only to students who are enrolled in a degree seeking program or who are seeking teacher's certification. Students must be regularly enrolled in a degree seeking program in order to be eligible for Federal financial aid. Those accepted into the non-traditional undergraduate admission category (students who are allowed to earn up to 15 semester hours prior to fulfilling regular admission) are therefore ineligible until such time as admissions requirements are fulfilled. Other categories of students who are ineligible include those accepted as transient, special, or the accelerated high school program. Federal/State Financial Aid Regulations and the Federal Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 require those students seeking assistance use their social security numbers in applying for aid.

Students who withdraw may have to repay a proportionate amount of assistance disbursed for that term. Students who receive a full Federal Pell Grant and then drop to less than twelve hours are reminded that they have used a full semester's entitlement of the grant. Complete information on Return of Title IV Funds is located in the class schedule booklet.

CANCELLATION OF FINANCIAL AID

Students scheduled to receive financial aid who do not plan to attend a term for which they have pre-registered must notify both the Financial Aid and Registrar's Offices prior to the first day of classes to cancel their preregistration and financial aid.

STUDENTS WHO FAIL TO DO THIS WILL BE ENROLLED IN CLASSES AND RECEIVE ACADEMIC AND FINANCIAL PENALTY.

AID DURING MAY/SUMMER/MARATHON SESSIONS

Students who attend during the May/Summer/Marathon (short) sessions may qualify for financial assistance if they have remaining eligibility. Federal Pell Grant recipients who do not attend the Fall and Spring terms full-time may qualify for a grant for these terms. Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants and Alabama State Grants are generally not available. Most assistance is in the form of Federal Stafford Loans for students who have remaining eligibility (see annual loan limits).

While most programs require at least half-time (six hours) for eligibility, short terms are combined into one for eligibility purposes. Because of the brevity of these terms, students are urged to register for all the sessions they plan to attend before submitting an application since time does not allow for changes to be made once an application is processed.

NONDISCRIMINATION

All financial aid is awarded without regard to age, sex, race, religion, physical or mental handicap, or national origin. Most financial aid is available only to citizens, nationals, or permanent residents of the United States. The University does provide scholarships to foreign students accepted to its International House Program.

SOME AID SUBJECT TO IRS TAX LAWS

Some scholarships and fellowship grants are subject to being reported as income on Federal Income Tax Returns. It is each student's responsibility to report such assistance in accordance with regulations established by the Internal Revenue Service.

TAX RELIEF ACT OF 1997

The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 allows qualified students and/or parents to receive benefits when filing federal income tax returns for certain educational expenses. Taxpayers who are interested in this new legislation, which includes the Hope Scholarship Tax Credit for freshmen and sophomores, and the Lifetime Learning Tax Credit, should contact their tax preparers. There are other provisions for interest paid on educational loans. The University does not provide tax advice and makes no representation on the new tax law.