

Financial Aid Newsletter

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Office Locations:

Main Office:

252 Student Services Bldg.
Office Hrs: 9 am - 5 pm
Monday-Friday

Satellite Office:

C18-B East Fee Hall
Office Hrs: Noon - 4 pm
Monday, and Thursday
(fall/spring)

Www.finaid.msu.edu
Phone: (517) 355-5940
Fax: (517) 432-1155
E-mail: finaid@msu.edu

How to Apply for Aid



To apply for aid for summer you need to file the 2015-16 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.gov. Make sure to release your date to MSU – school code 002290. Notification of summer aid begins early March if you paid your MSUCOM deposit and filed your FAFSA.

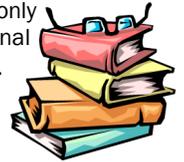
To be considered for aid for fall, spring, summer 2016-17 you will also need to file the 2016-17 FAFSA available as of 1/1/16. Aid notification for 2016-17 begins mid April 2016.

The information from the FAFSA will allow us to

determine your eligibility for several aid programs including student grants and loans. For more information on sources of aid for medical school see:

www.finaid.msu.edu/med/medchart.pdf

We encourage you to report parental data on the FAFSA, (although it is not mandatory,) because some aid programs require it. Reporting parental data can only help you secure additional assistance; it will not hurt you.



Cost of Education*

We will use your FAFSA information to package you for financial aid. The summer budget (cost of education) totals::

- \$14,837 for an in-state student
- \$21,837 for an out-of-state student

The budget includes amounts for:

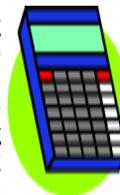
- tuition and fees
- books and supplies
- health insurance
- housing
- food
- Transportation & other expenses

After tuition fees, books and health insurance you have approximately \$2,048 per month for 12 months of living expenses. It is important to live within the monthly living allowance, as federal guidelines do not allow financial assistance to exceed your budget. In other words, your aid resources are limited and you need to plan carefully.

***NOTE:** It is too early to estimate costs for the 2016-17 academic year. The actual budgets are typically finalized in July. Use the figures listed for 2015-16 for planning purposes.

Budget Planning

Just as you planned ahead in applying for medical school you will also need to give some forethought to how you will finance your medical education, the amount of indebtedness you are willing to incur and how to live on a fixed living allowance. While you may want to postpone the task of budget planning until you arrive on campus, now is the time to begin planning in order to make a successful financial transition to medical school. Some of you may find yourselves responsible for



managing your own resources for the first time, while others have been self-supporting for many years. In either case, learning to manage money is a skill which takes practice. Therefore, to help you in your budget planning we have included some key strategies to assist in living within your educational budget. Remember the goal of budgeting is to live within your available resources and to avoid unnecessary debt.



Key Financial Strategies

HAVE A SPENDING PLAN

This does not mean you have to keep track of every penny, but you should have a plan for how you want to allocate your resources. If you know where your money goes, you are less likely to spend more than you have. A spending plan can also help you identify future expenses so that you can put money aside to pay for them.

KEEP A CASH RESERVE FOR EMERGENCIES

Unexpected expenses, such as car repairs or medical bills, are unavoidable. Having an emergency fund means you will be less likely to be forced to charge these bills on a credit card.

AVOID OVERUSE OF CREDIT

Getting your first credit card and using it wisely is a great way to begin building a credit history. Credit is convenient, but it is not free. You are responsible for repaying everything you borrow, including interest and finance charges. You should not need more than one credit card. Choose one with the lowest fees and interest rate possible. Pay off your balance in full every month. If you do not trust yourself, do not carry your card in your wallet. Take it with you only when you plan to use it. Still don't trust yourself? Freeze your credit card in a metal bowl full of water in your freezer. This won't ruin your card, but you'll have to wait for it to defrost before you use it, and this will give you a 'cooling off period' so to speak!



MAKE PROVISIONS FOR LARGER EXPENSES

Plan for expenses that come up only once or twice a year, like auto insurance, by factoring the monthly amount into your budget and setting that amount aside so that you have the cash when the time comes to pay the bill.

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE COST OF OWNERSHIP

This is particularly important when purchasing a car or a home. You may be able to afford payment, but also consider the cost of insurance and maintenance when making your purchase.



PLUG UP YOUR SPENDING LEAKS

Pay attention to all of those seemingly minor expenditures, like your morning cup of coffee from Starbucks or the afternoon candy bar from the vending machine. You may be surprised to find you are spending as much as \$150-\$300 per year on these items.



Beware of CARELESS SHOPPING HABITS

Many of our spending leaks are a result of impulse buys. Limit your grocery shopping trips to every two weeks. Bring a list and stick to it! Stay out of the mall unless you have a specific item you need to purchase.



SAVE SMALL AMOUNTS

The idea is to get in the habit of saving, no matter how little the amount. Saving \$5 per week will eventually add up.



PRACTICE DELAYED GRATIFICATION

Ask yourself these questions when considering a purchase:



- Is this a 'want' or a 'need'?
- Do I have to have it right now?
- Can I get it cheaper somewhere else?



eConsent & Check Your Aid

eConsent

MSU must receive your permission (eConsent) to conduct financial aid business with you electronically. We strongly **encourage all students to say "YES" to eConsent** once you receive your Personal ID (PID) and Personal Access number (PAN) and activate your MSU NetID (email ID). You may give your eConsent on the web at: <https://stuinfo.msu.edu/>. Select "eConsent for Financial Aid". Giving your eConsent means you will be able to access your financial aid information in STUINFO and Check Your Aid to accept or decline loans online. You will also receive timely email notifications when your financial aid package is awarded or revised.

Payment Consent

Agree or decline to have your federal Title IV financial aid to be applied to all charges on your account. Not agreeing may require additional payment from you to become a registered student.

Security Questions for financial aid

All students who receive financial aid and wish to discuss their private information with staff by telephone must complete Security Questions for Financial Aid in STUINFO. Students must select and supply answers to 3 security questions. In addition, if the student wishes to authorize a parent/guest to access his/her records by phone, the student must enter the name(s) of their authorized persons and supply security question answers to that person as well. We are unable to provide any specific financial aid information over the phone without completion of your security questions.

MSU Email

USE YOUR MSU EMAIL ACCOUNT when sending email to the medical advisory staff as this is considered a secure site. Make sure to **include your MSU Personal ID (PID)** in all correspondence with the office so we can quickly access your records.

Meet the Staff



Ms. Angelene Patton
Assistant Director
Medical Student
Financial Aid
harri494@msu.edu



Mr. Christopher Morse
Coordinator of Medical
Student
Financial Aid
morsech3@msu.edu



Ms. Christy Cotton
Coordinator of Medical
Student
Financial Aid
cottonc4@msu.edu

Budget Increase for Computer Purchase

Any student who decides to purchase a computer after being admitted to medical school may request a **one time** budget increase in order to be reimbursed for this purchase. Please note: students are not required to own a personal computer, but may want to own a computer in order to have unrestricted access to this technological tool.

The budget increase will be for the actual amount of purchase, not to exceed \$2000. The budget increase will only be granted upon approval and submission of a receipt.

The type of assistance offered to cover this cost is in the form of a unsubsidized Stafford Loan or Graduate PLUS loan. Computers purchased prior to being admitted to CHM will not be reimbursed, and reimbursement will not occur prior to the beginning of the semester.



Loan Information

Federal Direct Stafford Loan (subsidized)

The federal government eliminated eligibility for subsidized Stafford loans for graduate/professions students effective 7/1/12.

Federal Direct Stafford Loan (unsubsidized)

The annual loan maximum is \$40,500 and the aggregate Stafford loan maximum for medical students is \$224,000. Beginning 7/1/13, interest rate varies annually with a max rate of 9.5% for grads. The rate for 15-16 is 5.84%. Interest begins to accumulate at time of disbursement. No payment is required until 6 months after student ceases to be enrolled on at least a half-time basis. Note: unsubsidized loans are coordinated with the school budget and other financial aid/resources.

Graduate Plus Loan

The annual limit is the student's budget less any other financial aid. Credit approval is required. Beginning 7/1/13, interest rate varies annually with a max rate of 10.5% for grads. The rate for 15-16 is 6.84%. Interest begins to accumulate at time of disbursement. Before disbursement the Grad PLUS master promissory note (MPN) and the entrance counseling quiz must be completed.

Note: private alternative loans are also available to help with financing a medical education. However, OFA believes the Graduate PLUS loan has better terms in comparison. An international student may want to pursue a private loan as they are ineligible for federal student loans. A creditworthy U.S. cosigner would be needed to secure a private loan. Contact the medical staff if you have questions.

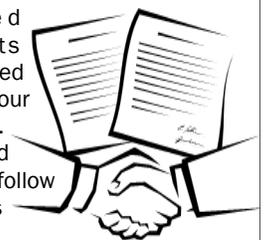
Acceptance of Loan(s)

After reviewing the financial assistance offered, you will need to carefully consider your expenses and your responsibilities as a borrower before you accept any of the loans. Loans do have to be repaid and you are not obligated to take the full amount of the loan offered.

In our opinion it is preferable to reduce your loan borrowing to the amount needed. And if at a later date you find yourself short of funds, you may contact OFA to increase the loan amount to cover your expenses.

To accept/reduce/decline the amount of loan offered, go to <https://stuinfo.msu.edu> and click on "Check Your Aid." Follow the directions included.

IMPORTANT! Red exclamation points indicate action(s) you need to take to make sure your aid is fully processed. Watch for the red exclamation points and follow the instructions



Office of Financial Aid
Student Services Building
556 E. Circle Drive, Rm 252
East Lansing, MI 48824-1113

Phone: 517-353-5940
Fax: 517-432-1155
Email: finaid@msu.edu

Whenever you are contacting our office please identify yourself as a MEDICAL student. Our medical advisory staff can best serve you and your unique needs when you identify yourself. If you have any questions regarding financial aid or related matters, always feel free to contact us for assistance.

www.finaid.msu.edu

MSU Registration Bill and Excess Aid

1. You will receive your summer registration bill via email mid April and payment is due May 3, 2016. Any financial aid that is "ready" when the bill is processed will appear on the bill either as actual aid or a temporary credit and reduce the amount you owe.
2. If you do not pay at least the "Minimum Amount Due" (MAD) and confirm your attendance, your classes will be dropped. **You must confirm attendance even if the MAD is zero.**
3. According to regulations federal aid cannot be disbursed to your MSU Account earlier than 10 days prior to the beginning of the semester (US16 starts 5/16/16 and FS16 starts 8/31/16). Therefore, you can anticipate receiving excess aid remaining after paying your MSU charges as a refund for living and book expenses around May 6th for US16 and August 21st for FS16.
4. Enroll for direct deposit at <https://stuinfo.msu.edu>. You will need to plan to have your own cash reserves for monthly expenses that occur prior to your refund.

FAQ



Q1. I have health insurance with another provider. Do I also have to pay for the MSU Health Insurance?

A1. No. For information on waiving the MSU Health Insurance charge see: www.finaid.msu.edu/med/medwaive.asp. Make sure to waive insurance for each aid year.

Q2. I am unable to live on \$2048 per month as I have a non-working spouse and children. What can I do?

A2. Contact the medical advisory staff to discuss your family situation. Perhaps a Special Condition Application (SCA) can be mailed to you, so we can re-evaluate your need for financial aid.

Q3. I'm an out-of-state student. Will I be reconsidered as an in-state student after living in Michigan for a year?

A3. No. For more information regarding residency contract the Registrar's Office at PH: 517/355-3300 and read information at: <http://www.reg.msu.edu/ROInfo/Notices/Residency.asp>.

Q4. How can I apply for grant and scholarship funding for medical school?

A4. Make sure to file the FAFSA for grant consideration from OFA. In addition, if you have high federal undergraduate indebtedness make sure to apply for EOF at: <http://grad.msu.edu/fellowships/eof.aspx>. You can also do an internet search. However, the best place to find scholarships is at the medical school you plan on attending. Also, do not forget about service commitment awards with the Armed Forces or NHSC. Check out the helpful links listed on the med student website at: <http://www.finaid.msu.edu/med/medlinks.asp>