



Financial Aid Questions

Q. What applications do students need and where do they get them?

A. There are three web-accessible applications needed to apply for financial aid.

- The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- A Stafford Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN), and
- An Ottawa University Institutional Application (non-residential students only)

Q. Do students have to reapply for financial aid every year?

A. Yes, students must apply for financial aid every year. If their financial circumstances change, students may get more or less aid. Renewal of the financial aid package also depends on a student making satisfactory academic progress toward a certificate or degree, such as achieving a minimum GPA.

Q. Should students report outside scholarships to the Department of Financial Aid?

A. Yes. If a student receives any kind of financial assistance, it must be reported to the Department of Financial Aid. The university will review his or her financial aid package to determine if eligibility for federal funds has changed.

Q. Do students have to pay back financial aid?

A. Whether aid is repaid depends on the type of funding received. Loans need to be repaid and Grants and scholarships do not.

Q. Can a student get a loan only?

A. The Federal Stafford Loan is a type of financial aid. Students must complete the federal grant application (FAFSA) before eligibility for a loan can be determined.

Q. What if a student and/or his or her family make too much money and is not eligible for financial aid? Are there other sources of assistance?

A. There are many types of assistance available. However, income is only one of many factors involved in determining aid eligibility. Students should not assume they are not eligible until they have completed the FAFSA. Most students are at least eligible to participate in the unsubsidized loan program.

Q. Can a student still get financial aid, even if he or she doesn't have good credit?

A. Yes. Having bad credit does not prevent students from participating in the federal financial aid programs (except the Federal PLUS Program).

Q. What happens if a student changes enrollment status? Will the aid eligibility be affected?

A. It could be affected. Students should consult their Financial Aid Coordinator before making any changes to their enrollment status.

Q. What is verification?

A. Verification is the process whereby the school is required to review the information provided on the FAFSA for accuracy. The federal government randomly selects students for this process or a student may get selected because of conflicting or unusual information provided on the FAFSA. If selected for verification, the student (and parents, if applicable) will be required to submit a verification worksheet and a signed copy of the appropriate year tax return.

Q. Why does Hands On Therapy need my tax return?

A. Much of the information required for verification can only be found on the tax return.

Q. What is the award notification?

A. The award notification will be reviewed with students after we have determined eligibility for aid. It will indicate the type of aid students are eligible for and the approximate disbursement dates and amounts for these funds.

Q. How much free money can a student get?

A. The maximum annual PELL Grant is set by Congress and is determined in part by the student's enrollment status throughout the year and the output results from the FAFSA. Students should contact the Department of Financial Aid for more information.

Q. What other Grant programs are available and how do I apply for them?

A. There are no other government grants available for HandsOn Therapy at this time.

Q. What happens if a student doesn't repay a loan(s)?

A. Failure to repay loan(s) can have serious consequences. Not only will it affect credit, but a student's wages could be garnished, tax returns withheld and eligibility lost to participate in any further federal financial aid programs.

Q. What is the difference between a subsidized and unsubsidized loan?

A. The federal government pays the interest on a subsidized loan while the student is in school at least half time and during the grace period. The student can either pay the unsubsidized interest quarterly while in school (recommended) or can choose to capitalize the interest payment and have the interest added to the loan principal.

Q. What is the purpose of the exit interviews?

A. The exit interview is the student's opportunity to learn about his or her rights and responsibilities as Student Loan borrowers.

Q. How does a student know how much money he or she borrowed?

A. The lender will provide Disclosure Statements showing details of current loans and reflecting overall indebtedness but the National Student Loan Data System (www.nsls.ed.gov) should be the best source of information pertaining to all of your student loan debts.

Q. How can a student find out what his or her loan payments will be?

A. Students may contact his or her lender or the Department of Financial Aid. In addition, there are various calculators available to help students determine what their loan repayment will be: <http://mappingyourfuture.org/paying/standardcalculator.htm>

Q. What is a deferment?

A. A student who is eligible for a deferment will not have to make loan payments during the deferment period. Students who are enrolled at least half-time are eligible for an in-school deferment.

Q. What is the interest rate of my loan(s)?

A. The interest rate on Federal loans can/will vary based on the type of loan and when the loan is taken. Please contact your lender or the Department of Financial Aid for more clarification regarding the rates on your loan(s).

Q. What is a grace period?

A. Students are allowed a grace period of six months before entering repayment. The grace period begins once the student leaves school or drops to less than half time status.

If a student defaulted on a previous student loan, can he or she still receive financial aid?