

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY  
DIVISION OF ENROLLMENT SERVICES



# AWARD NOTICE INFORMATION

FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2015-2016

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- All students must **file** a FAFSA each year to determine eligibility for federal and state grant and loan aid based on your yearly EFC calculation on the FAFSA.
- Undergraduates must **file** a CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE® each year by the priority deadline to be considered for institutional need based aid based on your yearly EFC calculation on the Profile.
- Students must file the FAFSA for parent's to be eligible to apply for the Parent PLUS loan.
- You will be **notified** via your SMU e-mail account when your awards can be viewed on my.SMU.edu. At that time, please accept, decline, or reduce any loans for which you are eligible. Make sure to hit the Submit button after you accept your financial aid. All grant and scholarship aid has been accepted for you.
- Parents will need to apply for the Federal Direct PLUS Loan after student accepts the Federal PLUS Loan Estimate on my.SMU.edu.
- You must **notify** SMU if you have received scholarships or other aid from sources outside SMU. **Provide** us with the names, amounts, and types (scholarships, grants or loans) of aid by e-mail or written notification to address listed below. This information is required to comply with federal or state regulations that govern the total amount of aid you may receive.
- You must **report** to the Financial Aid Office changes in your academic course load including course reductions or withdrawal and changes in your family circumstances that may affect your ability to meet financial obligations to the university.
- You must **keep** your address and telephone number updated in my.SMU.edu. **Check** your SMU email and FA Pony Tracks frequently for updates and other important information.
- You will begin **repayment** on your federal student loans six months after you graduate or drop below half-time status (enrolled in 5 credit hours or less).
- Undergraduates must **meet** eligibility requirements for each federal Title IV program based on one or more of the following: [enrollment](#), [satisfactory progress](#), [GPA](#).

## SMU RESPONSIBILITIES

The federal government requires institutions to verify the accuracy of information submitted by aid applicants, and if necessary, adjust need analysis results and awards based on verified information. **SMU reserves the right** to adjust any need-based award based on **verification** activities.

**SMU reserves the right** to revise or modify financial aid commitments when there are changes in your financial status, student status, or change in the availability of funds.  
(SMU does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, age, sex, or disability.)

Mail: Enrollment Services-FA SMU Box 750181 Dallas 75275	Office: 6185 Airline Blanton Bldg. 1 <sup>st</sup> floor, suite 119 Dallas 75205	Phone: 214-768-3417	Fax: 214-768-3878	Email: Enrol_serv@smu.edu	Web: SMU.edu/financial_aid
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All SMU [Financial Aid forms](http://www.smu.edu/EnrollmentServices/FinancialAid/Forms) are available at: [www.smu.edu/EnrollmentServices/FinancialAid/Forms](http://www.smu.edu/EnrollmentServices/FinancialAid/Forms)

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE FUNDS

### **Federal Title IV Funds**

Awards including Pell Grant, Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG), Federal Work Study, Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loan, Direct PLUS Loan, and Perkins Loan are considered Federal Title IV funding.

## GRANTS

### **Federal Grants**

Eligibility for federal grants is determined by the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) EFC calculation and available to undergraduate students only. A Pell Grant amount is determined by the Student's EFC matched to the Pell Charts that are issued each academic year by the Department of Education. SEOG (varied amounts) is awarded to the neediest Pell recipients as determined by SMU policy for need.

### **Texas State Grants**

Eligibility is determined by the total income calculated on the FAFSA and is available to undergraduate and some graduate/professional career students. Texas residency status must be documented. Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG) recipients (amounts vary) must be enrolled full-time and maintain a 2.5 GPA for continued eligibility. **Awards are subject to availability of funds.**

### **SMU Award**

This award is considered institutional gift aid for undergraduate students only. Eligibility is determined annually based on documented financial need using the FAFSA and CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE<sup>®</sup> EFC calculations. Awards are subject to availability of funds. **SMU policy limits gift aid such as SMU-funded scholarships, grants, and tuition benefits to a total cost of tuition and fees.**

### **SMU Scholarships**

SMU scholarships are based on your status during the admission process. You must remain a full-time student and meet cumulative grade point average requirements to retain undergraduate scholarships that were awarded to you. Graduate/professional scholarship eligibility is based on the requirements set by the academic departments at the time of awarding. **SMU policy limits gift aid such as SMU-funded scholarships, grants, and tuition benefits to a total cost of tuition and fees.**

### **Outside Scholarships**

Please forward scholarship and grant checks from outside agencies and donors to:

Division of Enrollment Services  
Southern Methodist University  
Scholarship Office, Box 750181  
Dallas, Texas 75275-0181

Tuition charges may be deferred for any documented outside scholarship or grant checks not available by the payment deadline if the aid office has been notified of them. If you wish to have your off campus scholarships help pay your tuition charges, send documentation to your financial aid advisor about the additional outside aid.

## LOANS

### **Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans**

Direct Loans are among the least expensive of all student loans and should generally be the first loan used by students. Direct Subsidized Loans are awarded in varying amounts depending on classification and career to students with need. Direct Unsubsidized Loans are awarded in varying amounts depending on career and additional amounts for undergraduates Direct PLUS Loan denials.

If you are an undergraduate **first-time Direct Loan borrower**, you will be directed via your SMU email to (1) complete entrance counseling and (2) complete and sign your Master Promissory Note. **You may e-sign your loan with your federal pin number or print, sign, and mail your promissory note.**

If you are a graduate/professional **first-time Direct Loan borrower** and depending on the instructions you receive when you accept your Direct Loan on my.SMU.edu, you will be directed via your SMU email to (1) complete entrance counseling and (2) complete and sign your Master Promissory Note. **You may e-sign your loan with your federal pin number or print, sign, and mail your promissory note.**

### **Loan Reminder:**

**YOU are responsible for submitting your SIGNED Master Promissory Note to the U.S. Department of Education. Do not mail it to SMU. It is your responsibility to either e-sign your promissory note OR print, sign, and mail your promissory note to the U.S. Department of Education. Failure to submit the promissory note to the U.S. Department of Education will result in a hold on the disbursement of funds to SMU and could eventually result in the cancellation of your loan.**

### **Direct PLUS Loans (for parents of dependent undergraduate students)**

Parents of dependent students may be eligible to borrow up to cost of attendance minus other financial aid student is receiving through the Direct PLUS Loan Program to assist student with the cost of their education. The loan is available to credit-worthy borrowers. Parent PLUS disbursements will be sent to SMU. SMU will promptly certify the loan. A loan origination fee of 4% is deducted from the loan proceeds. For information on how to apply for the parent Direct PLUS Loan, go to the [SMU Loans Home Page](#).

### **Direct PLUS Loans (for graduate/professional students)**

Graduate/professional students may be eligible to borrow up to cost of attendance minus other financial aid through the Direct PLUS Loan Program. The loan is available to credit-worthy borrowers and can have credit worthy co-signers if needed. PLUS disbursements will be sent to SMU and applied to students' SMU Student account. SMU will promptly certify the loan. A loan origination fee of up to 4% is deducted from the loan proceeds. For information on how to apply for the Direct PLUS Loan, go to the [SMU Loans Home Page](#).

## LOANS

### **Federal Perkins Loans**

Needy students may be eligible for loans from the Federal Perkins Loan program on a limited basis depending on fund availability. Graduate/professional students may borrow up to \$8000 per year while undergraduate students may borrow up to \$5500 per year. If you are eligible for the limited Perkins loan funding the loan will be offered to you by SMU in your financial aid package. For information on how to complete a Perkins loan application after it is offered, go to the [SMU Loans Home Page](#).

### **Private Loan Eligibility and Alternative Education Loan Programs**

Many students have additional private/alternative loan eligibility as a part of their financial aid award. These loans are credit based and interest rates vary based on credit. They are not guaranteed by the federal government, but offered from individual lenders. This means a student may be eligible to borrow from this type of loan for additional funds up to the cost of attendance minus other aid they are receiving. SMU will promptly certify a loan with any lender. You can view lists of lenders along with links to apply for loans with lenders who SMU has determined provide outstanding customer service and good borrower benefits on the [SMU Loans Home Page](#). SMU always encourages students and families to use federal loan products before borrowing from private/alternative education loans.

### **Required Entrance and Exit Counseling for Federal Loans**

Students borrowing from the Direct Loans, Direct PLUS, and Federal Perkins Loan Programs are required to complete entrance counseling before first loan fund disbursements can be made to their SMU Student accounts. Additionally, students must complete exit counseling when they leave school either by dropping to less than half-time enrollment or graduate from their program. SMU uses on-line entrance and exit counseling tools to help students accomplish these tasks. Students receive an email via their SMU email account with instructions and web links to complete the counseling.

## STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

A student employed at SMU will receive a bi-weekly paycheck from the SMU Payroll Department. Work program awards and earnings are not applied to the SMU Student account to pay for tuition, fees, room or board. On-campus employment is available to any student at SMU with or without financial need. On and off-campus job referrals are also available from the Division of Enrollment Services [Student Employment Office](#). Students usually work an average of 10-15 hours per week. Part-time employment offers many opportunities for interaction with faculty, staff, and administration.

### **Federal Work Study**

If you have completed the FAFSA and are eligible for Federal Work Study, you have the opportunity during the academic year to earn up to the amount you have been awarded. In addition, if you have been awarded Federal Work Study you may apply for many community service or reading/math tutor positions available both on and off campus. See the [Student Employment Office](#) website for more details.

## NOTICES AND DISCLOSURES

### **Refunds of Credit Balances from Loan Proceeds**

Loan proceeds from completed loan applications will be credited to students' accounts no sooner than 10 days before the first day of class for each semester. If loan proceeds create a credit balance on the SMU tuition account, a refund of federal funds must be completed within 14 business days after the first class day or 14 business days after receipt of the funds if after the first day of classes. Please complete the [Direct Deposit](#) process to make refunding of credit balances work more efficiently for you. A refund from a parent Direct PLUS Loan will be sent directly to the parent borrower.

### **Institutional Funding**

The generosity of many benefactors enables SMU to award scholarships in recognition of high academic achievement, talent in the arts, and financial need. State and federal grant programs, in combination with gifts from donors, provide the means for SMU to **help** meet the demonstrated need of financial aid applicants. Each year recipients of scholarships and grants will be notified of the sources that made those awards possible so they may express appreciation to the donors. For maximum utilization of financial aid resources, **SMU reserves the right** to interchange the sources of funding for all scholarships and grants. **SMU policy with regards to gift aid (SMU-funded scholarships, grants, and faculty/staff tuition benefits) is that the total may not exceed the amount of tuition and fees.**

### **Terms for Deferral of Federal Loans**

Students can qualify for in-school deferment of federal loans in which they are the borrower by remaining continuously enrolled at least half time. Also, students may defer payment of principal and interest of federal loans for volunteer service in either the Peace Corps, Title I of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (ACTIONS Programs), or in a tax-exempt organization that qualifies under IRS Code section 501(c) (3) for service to low-income persons and communities that is not a religious activity for loans made prior to 7/1/93 if full-time volunteer for up to three years.

### **Review of Aid Packages**

Certain unusual circumstances may warrant an appeal of the need-analysis determination of your expected family contribution (EFC) or cost of attendance. Please visit the SMU Financial Aid website at [www.smu.edu/financial\\_aid](http://www.smu.edu/financial_aid) for additional information.

### **Institutional Policy on Discrimination**

SMU will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, disability, or veteran status. SMU's commitment to equal opportunity includes nondiscrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

### **Federal Student Financial Aid Penalties for Drug Law Violations**

A federal or state drug conviction can disqualify a student for FSA funds. The student self-certifies in applying for aid that he is eligible; you're not required to confirm this unless you have conflicting information.

Convictions only count if they were for an offense that occurred during a period of enrollment for which the student was receiving Title IV aid—they do not count if the offense was not during such a period. Also, a conviction that was reversed, set aside, or removed from the student's record does not count, nor does one received when he/she was a juvenile, unless he/she was tried as an adult.

The chart below illustrates the period of ineligibility for FSA funds, depending on whether the conviction was for sale or possession and whether the student had previous offenses. (A conviction for sale of drugs includes convictions for conspiring to sell drugs.)

<b>1st offense</b>	1 year from date of conviction	2 years from date of conviction
<b>2nd offense</b>	2 years from date of conviction	Indefinite period
<b>3+ offenses</b>	Indefinite period	

If the student was convicted of both possessing and selling illegal drugs, and the periods of ineligibility are different, the student will be ineligible for the longer period.

SMU will provide any student who becomes ineligible for Title IV aid due to a drug conviction a clear and concise written notice of his loss of eligibility and the methods whereby he can become eligible again.

A student regains eligibility the day after the period of ineligibility ends or when he successfully completes a qualified drug rehabilitation program or, effective beginning with the 2010–2011 award year, passes two unannounced drug tests given by such a program. Further drug convictions will make him ineligible again.

Students denied eligibility for an indefinite period can regain it after successfully completing rehabilitation program (as described below), passing two unannounced drug tests from such a program, or if a conviction is reversed, set aside, or removed from the student's record so that fewer than two convictions for sale or three convictions for possession remain on the record. In such cases, the nature and dates of the remaining convictions will determine when the student regains eligibility. It is the student's responsibility to certify to you that she has successfully completed the rehabilitation program; as with the conviction question on the FAFSA, you are not required to confirm the reported information unless you have conflicting information.

When a student regains eligibility during the award year, you may award Pell, ACG, National SMART, TEACH, and Campus-based aid for the current payment period and Direct and FFEL loans for the period of enrollment.

## **NSLDS**

### **Loan Reporting**

All federal student loans obtained by a student or parent are reported to and tracked on the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS). NSLDS loan records are accessible to all authorized NSLDS users, including schools, student loan guaranty agencies, lenders, federal agencies, and other authorized users.

Alternative and private education loans information are not reported to NSLDS.

### **Accessing NSLDS**

Student and parent loan borrowers may view their federal loan information at [NSLDS](#). Borrowers access the system using their federal PIN. Students can also access prior federal grant information at [NSLDS](#).

## ENROLLMENT STATUS

### **Undergraduate Students**

The Division of Enrollment Services assumes undergraduates will be enrolled for both fall and spring terms at full-time status (12-18 hours per term). We calculate educational costs on this basis. If you will be enrolled in less than 12 hours, or more than 18 hours, please contact your financial aid advisor immediately for a reassessment of your costs and your eligibility for the funds offered. This may change your eligibility for some types of financial aid. Federal loan funds require at least a half-time enrollment (6 hours) per semester to remain eligible.

## ENROLLMENT STATUS

- **Refunding of Student Charges Policy**

Please review official refund of charges policies at the [SMU Bursar's](#) website.

- **Withdrawal Procedures**

Please review official withdrawal policies at the [SMU University's Registrar](#) website.

- **Return of Aid after Withdrawal from the University**

Please review official policy for return of financial aid after withdrawal from the University at the [SMU Financial Aid](#) website.

## PAYMENT DUE DATES

### **Fall 2015 Semester**

**New undergraduate students** who register during the July Academic Advising, Registration, and Orientation (AARO) will receive an e-mail with their SMU charges. Payment must be received by the Enrollment Services-Bursar Office by August 20, 2015. New undergraduate students registering at August AARO must pay their SMU charges on the day they register.

**Continuing undergraduate students** who registered for Fall 2015 early will receive invoice statements in July 2015. Payment must be received in Enrollment Services-Bursar Office by August 16, 2015. Students registering in August must pay their SMU charges on the day they register.

### **Spring 2016 Semester**

Undergraduate students' payment for the spring semester must be paid to the Enrollment Services-Bursar Office by January 9, 2016.

## CHARGES

### SMU Undergraduate Costs 2015-2016 ACADEMIC YEAR

<u>Direct SMU charges</u>	<u>Fall</u>	<u>Spring</u>
Tuition (12-18 hrs/sem)	\$21,385	\$21,385
Fees (required)	\$ 2,710	\$ 2,710
Average SMU Room cost (double. occupancy)	\$ 5,145	\$ 5,060
SMU Board (All Access 7)	\$ 2,565	\$ 2,565
Total	\$30,306	\$29,947

Estimated additional costs to consider:

1. Books and supplies - approx. \$800 per year
2. Post Office Box rental - approx. \$85 per year
3. SMU yearbook - approx. \$ 70 (optional)
4. SMU parking permit - \$295 year (optional)
5. Local and trip home transportation – approx. \$1,000
6. Pony Express card - pre-paid debit card for use in bookstore, clinic, and student center (optional)

Evening Undergraduate Degree Tuition - \$541 per sem. hour

Teacher Certification Tuition - \$541 per semester hour

## INVOICE PAYMENT WORKSHEET

This worksheet is a tool to help you understand and calculate your balance for the 2015-2016 academic year. To accurately estimate your costs, you should use your Financial Aid Award Notice on Access.SMU.edu, the information on charges provided to you in this insert, and the [Financial Information: Southern Methodist University](#) catalog supplement.

CHARGES			AID			
	FALL	SPRING		Total Aid	FALL	SPRING
Tuition			Merit Scholarship*			
Fees			Federal Pell Grant			
Housing			Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG)			
Meal Plan			Direct Subsidized and/or Unsubsidized Loans (1.073%)			
Parking			Federal SEOG Grant			
Rotunda Yearbook			SMU Opportunity Award			
Pony Express Card			Pre-Paid Tuition Plans			
			Off campus Scholarships			
			Department Scholarships			
			Direct PLUS Loan (4.292%)			
			Private/alternative Loans (may be 3%)			
			Other Aid			
Total			Total			
	Fall	Spring	* Merit Scholarships include SMU Distinguished Scholar, University Scholar, Mustang Scholar, President Scholar, Hunt's Scholar, Dean's Scholar, Leadership Award, department scholarships, etc.			
<b>Total Charges</b>						
(minus) <b>Total Award</b>						
<b>Balance owed or refund</b>						

**Step 1** – First, fill in the information on the worksheet from your award notice under the Total Aid columns. Remember that if you are using the Direct Subsidized and/or Unsubsidized Loans, subtract 1.073% and Direct PLUS Loans you need to subtract 4.292% from the loan amount, (i.e.  $\$2000 \times .04292 = \$85.84$ ;  $\$2000 - \$85.84 = \$1,914.16$ ) After entering this information, divide the total amount by 2 and enter these amounts into the fall and spring column. Add the fall column and enter the total; repeat the step for spring. Use these numbers and place it in the comparison box on the bottom left of the worksheet on the Total Award spaces. NOTE: Federal Work Study awards cannot be used in calculating the amount owed since Federal Work Study earnings are paid to the student biweekly.

**Step2** - Depending on your enrollment status (e.g. full-time or part-time) you will need to calculate the tuition and fees for each semester as defined in the previous chart. Enter this information for each semester. Parking and the Rotunda yearbook are charged up front in the Fall Semester for both semesters, therefore place the whole amount in the fall column. Once you add up the Total Charges for Fall and Spring move these figures to the lower box and subtract the Total Charges from the Total Award and this will give you an estimate of what to expect as far as a refund of credit balance or the payment you need to make by payment due date.

## Additional Payment Options

Most families appreciate any additional assistance that may be available to help pay for college costs. This chart summarizes options available. Credit worthiness may be required.

Program Name	Maximum Amount	Eligibility & Credit Requirements	Interest Rate	Term of Repayment	Fees
Undergraduate SMU Four-Year Payment Plan  Call 214-768-4635 for enrollment form	Parent makes one payment at beginning of student's first year at four times the annual tuition and fee rate currently in effect	None	None; protects against future tuition and fee increases	N/A	None
SMU Monthly Payment Plan Call TuitionPay at 1-800-635-0120 or visit <a href="http://www.tuitionpay.com">www.tuitionpay.com</a>	Tuition, fees, institutional room, and board charges for one year	None	None	5 monthly payments for Fall beginning in June; 5 monthly payments for Spring beginning in November	\$100 application fee for full year. \$50 application fee for one semester.
Direct PLUS Loan <a href="http://www.studentloans.gov">www.studentloans.gov</a>	Cost of education minus other awarded financial aid	Parent of dependent student is the borrower with approved credit	For loans after 7/1/06 fixed interest rate of 7.9%	10 years with payment beginning 30 days after receipt of funds	Up to 4.292% origination fee of amount borrowed
Direct PLUS* Loan ( <i>for graduate/professional students</i> ) <a href="http://www.studentloans.gov">www.studentloans.gov</a>	Cost of education minus other awarded financial aid	Student is the borrower with approved credit; may have cosigner	For loans after 7/1/06 fixed interest rate of 7.9%	10 years with payment deferred for 6 months with continuous enrollment of at least half-time	Up to 4.288% origination fee of amount borrowed
College Access Loan for Texas residents Loaned by The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board <a href="https://helmnet.theccb.state.tx.us/borrowers/apply/AvailLoanProducts.asp">https://helmnet.theccb.state.tx.us/borrowers/apply/AvailLoanProducts.asp</a>	Cost of education minus other awarded financial aid as long as funds are available for the year	Student is the borrower with a credit-worthy co-signer who is a relative	Fixed at 5.25%	10 years with payment deferred until 6 months after at least half-time enrollment	Up to 5% of amount borrowed
Methodist Loan Loaned by The UMC General Board of Higher Education and Ministry <a href="http://www.gbhem.org">www.gbhem.org</a>	Annual limit of \$5,000	Student is the borrower with a co-signer. Must be active member of the UMC for at least a year	Fixed interest of 5% from date of loan	10 years with payment deferred until 6 months after at least half-time enrollment	N/A
Alternative/private Loans from commercial education loan lenders <a href="http://www.smu.edu/EnrollmentServices/FinancialAid/TypesOfAid/Loans/PrivateAlternativeLenders">http://www.smu.edu/EnrollmentServices/FinancialAid/TypesOfAid/Loans/PrivateAlternativeLenders</a>	Cost of education minus other awarded financial aid	Student is the borrower with approved credit; may have cosigner. Student must be enrolled at least half-time	Varied interest rates depending on credit worthiness and prime interest at the time of loan application	Most lenders allow 10 years with payment deferred until 6 months after at least half-time enrollment	Varied origination fees depending on lender

**\*NOTE:** The Free Application for Federal Student Aid must have been filed with the Federal Processor and be on file with the SMU Financial Aid Office to be eligible for this aid. All loan and payment information is current as of 03/12/2014.