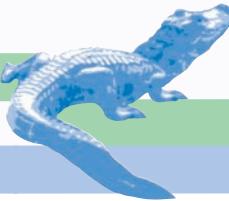


# NEWS

from the UF Office for Student Financial Affairs



## Financial Aid for Gators

Fall 2008

### New Grant Available for 2008-09: the TEACH Grant

The Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant program was created by Congress to help students planning careers as highly qualified teachers. Students can receive up to \$4,000 per year for an undergraduate degree (\$16,000 total over a four-year program). Graduate students can receive \$4,000 per year (up to \$8,000).

Recipients of the TEACH Grant must be willing to commit to teaching for a minimum of four years (within eight years of finishing their program) in a school serving low-income students. Recipients must also commit to teaching full-time in a subject area designated by the government as high-need.

Students interested in this new program should be aware that while the TEACH program is a grant, it will permanently convert to an unsubsidized Federal Direct Stafford Loan (with interest) if students do not fulfill the obligations of the program.

More information on this program, including specific definitions of terms and additional requirements, can be found at [www.studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/TEACH.jsp](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/TEACH.jsp). For information on TEACH Grant-eligible programs at UF, contact the College of Education Office of Student Services, G-416 Norman Hall, (352) 392-0721, ext. 400.

### Identity Theft and Credit Cards Financial Literacy Workshop highlights credit safety

America is a credit-happy country - we love the ease and convenience of purchasing with credit cards, and students are no exception. 78% of undergraduates have at least one credit card and the average balance carried is \$2,478. The numbers are even higher for graduate students. Heavy credit card use increases the risk of fraud and identity theft, the consequences of which can be especially damaging for students just beginning their credit history.

Students have reason to be especially vigilant: 31% of identity-theft victims fall into the 18-29 age group.

In October and November, Student Financial

Affairs will present several workshops for students highlighting safe credit practices and how best to avoid identity theft. Topics covered include safely applying for credit cards, responsible use of credit cards, and how to safeguard your identity.

The workshops are open to all students and will be held in the SFA Conference Room, P-113B Peabody Hall.

October 22	3pm-3:50pm
October 29	10:40am-11:30pm
November 5	10:40am-11:30am
November 12	3:00pm-3:50pm

Register online at  
<http://www.sfa.ufl.edu/programs/flw/>

### New SFA Hours!

Beginning Monday, October 20  
Lobby hours for  
Student Financial Affairs:

**8:00 AM-4:00 PM**

Monday--Friday

### CALENDAR

**NOVEMBER 11, 2008**  
Veterans Day, Office Closed

**NOVEMBER 21, 2008**  
Fall Deferred Fee Payment  
Deadline

**NOVEMBER 27-28, 2008**  
Thanksgiving, Office Closed

**DECEMBER 1, 2008**  
December Short-Term Loan  
Repayment Deadline

**JANUARY 2, 2009**  
2009-2010 Financial Aid  
Applications Available

**SFA WEB SITE**  
<http://www.sfa.ufl.edu>

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**UF** UNIVERSITY of  
FLORIDA  
*The Foundation for The Gator Nation*

# FINANCIAL AID in the News

## Government Bailout May Help Student Loan Companies

(The Chronicle, 10/6/08)

Student loans are among the types of assets now able to be purchased by the government as part of the sweeping \$700-billion bailout plan signed into law on October 3rd. The move could help stressed student loan providers, many of whom are struggling due to the ongoing credit crisis in the nation's financial sector. The bailout has proven to be controversial – the American Association of State Colleges and Universities opposed the measure, while the American Council on Education supported it. Time will tell whether the measure, as President Bush has argued, will help more families in their quest to pay for their children's college education.

Read more at: <http://chronicle.com/daily/2008/10/4884n.htm>

## U.S.D.O.E. Unveils College.gov

The U.S. Department of Education recently unveiled a new website aimed at both prospective and current students. The site combines video, testimonials, and practical advice with a fresh, intuitive design. The *How to Pay* section, with links to the FAFSA on the Web site as well as numerous DOE resources make College.gov a great go-to online resource for students looking for guidance in the wacky world of financial aid.

<http://www.college.gov>

## GRE Fee Waivers

UF and the Educational Testing Service of Princeton, NJ, offer eligible students a waiver of fees for taking the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).

Fee waivers are available to financial aid recipients who are seniors and who meet eligibility requirements established by the GRE Board, including financial need.

Waivers can be used for both General and Subject tests. Waivers are limited and are given out on a first-come, first-served basis at S-107 Criser Hall and are available only once per individual.

## Withdrawal for Students Called to Active Military Service

If you are a student called up for active military service, you should visit the Dean of Students Office (DSO) in 202 Peabody Hall to initiate your withdrawal.

If you can't withdraw in person, call DSO at 392-1261 to notify them of your withdrawal. If time permits, you should contact *all* of your professors to let them know you are reporting to active duty.

For more information about withdrawal, please go to DSO in 202 Peabody Hall.

UF general withdrawal information is available on the SFA Web site at: [www.sfa.ufl.edu/receiving/ufwithdrawal.html](http://www.sfa.ufl.edu/receiving/ufwithdrawal.html).

DSO, Student Financial Affairs (SFA), University Financial Services (UFS), and the Office of the University Registrar have put together a brochure to assist students

with this transition. Entitled "Military Withdrawal," the brochure includes information on withdrawal, fee refunds, forbearance or deferments of repayment of student loans, and re-enrollment. It's available at each of these offices as well as on the SFA Web site at: [www.sfa.ufl.edu/pub/publications.html](http://www.sfa.ufl.edu/pub/publications.html). Choose "Brochures."

## SFA Forms on Our Site

Printable, downloadable forms such as *Additional Aid Forms*, *Academic Progress Petitions*, *Budget Revision Petitions*, and verification forms are available on our Web site at <http://www.sfa.ufl.edu/pub/forms.html>. Please check with your financial aid adviser before printing verification forms.

## Did You Know?

- You must **REAPPLY** for financial aid each year in January/February.
- Spring 2009 classes begin January 6.
- You can complete an online *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)* using *FAFSA on the Web* at: [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).
- You must show your Gator One card, or your UFID plus a picture ID at the financial aid advising desk to meet our confidentiality requirement.



## Need a Job?

Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the following two Web sites make job hunting easy for students who want to work to help pay for school. Both sites allow students to view the listings, then apply for student jobs.

### 1. For off-campus jobs, go to: <http://www.sfa.ufl.edu/job.html>.

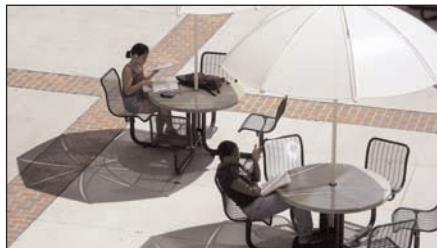
This site includes jobs posted by community agencies, including Federal Work-Study, Federal Community Service, and non-need-based jobs.

### 2. For campus jobs use the main UF job listings at <http://jobs.ufl.edu>. This interactive site lists all on-campus Federal Work-Study and OPS positions.

Students not yet employed by UF should:

- Go to "Jobs at UF" at:  
<http://jobs.ufl.edu>
- Click on "View Job Postings / Apply for Job"
- Under "Job Categories," check "Student Assistants"
- Click "Search"
- Select Jobs that interest you and click "Apply for Jobs in Basket."
- Either Sign In or Register.
- Fill out the required fields.  
Follow instructions and Submit Your Resume to complete the application process.

Students who are already UF employees should enter "Jobs at UF" through myUFL at: [my.ufl.edu](http://my.ufl.edu) instead of through [jobs.ufl.edu](http://jobs.ufl.edu). On the myUFL Menu select "My Self Service" and then "Jobs at UF." Then, follow the instructions above.



## How to Pay

Students have a number of options for paying UF tuition and other UF debts:

### 1. PeopleSoft Student Financials

After October 13, students will be able to pay fees directly by using the PS-SF system, available through their myUFL portal.

### 2. Electronic Funds Transfer

Sign up for electronic funds transfer to pay UF debts directly from your checking account. Go to ISIS at [www.isis.ufl.edu](http://www.isis.ufl.edu); under "Financial Services" choose "EFT Sign Up."

### 3. Use ISIS at [www.isis.ufl.edu](http://www.isis.ufl.edu)

MasterCard or American Express: a 2.6% service charge is assessed for using credit cards.

### 4. In person at University Financial Services, S-113 Criser Hall:

Pay by cash, check, money order, bank debit / ATM card, MasterCard or American Express (a 2.6 % service charge is assessed for credit cards).

### 5. By mail (checks only) Mail to: University Financial Services, P. O. Box 114050, Gainesville, FL

32611-4050. Make checks payable to "University of Florida." Include student's name, UFID, local address, and phone number.

### 6. UFS Drop Boxes (checks only):

- Outside S113 Criser Hall (24 hrs.)
- Residence Hall Locations
- Law School Dean's Office

### 7. At the Housing Office

Payments are accepted for tuition, accounts receivable, and housing charges (cash or checks only).

**Note:** No matter what payment method you use, your oldest UF debt is always paid first.

**FOR MORE INFO. go to**  
<http://www.fa.ufl.edu/ufs>

## Watch for Your Renewal Reminder from the Feds

**Each year in late fall—**  
the federal processor sends *Renewal Reminders* to renewal-eligible students to let you know that you can reapply for federal student aid using a *Renewal FAFSA* through *FAFSA on the Web*.

### Benefits of the Renewal FAFSA—

it is faster and easier to fill out! The information fields from last year are already completed—just make any corrections and changes for the new year.

### Two types of Renewal Reminders:

1. *Renewal Reminder E-mails* are sent to most applicants who have previously received

a PIN and provided a correct e-mail address.

2. *PIN Mailer Renewal Reminders* are mailed via USPS to most applicants who did not provide an e-mail address on their previous-year's *FAFSA*. *Pin Mailers Reminders* are sent to students' permanent home mailing addresses with their Federal PINs, which they can use to access the *Renewal Application* through *FAFSA on the Web*.

### To Get Your Renewal Reminder:

- Make sure you have a good Social Security Number on file.
- Make sure your 2008-09 *Renewal Reminder* goes to your

correct address. Take time NOW to update your e-mail address, mailing address, and other contact information at the *FAFSA on the Web* site at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

Call 1-800-4FED-AID for questions regarding *FAFSA on the Web*.

- Make sure you have submitted any previous-year corrections by January 12. If you do not, or if you are in default or overpayment on a federal loan, you must complete an original *FAFSA*.

If you have questions about this process you can receive help from CPS/SAIG Technical Support at: 1-800-330-5947; or at [CPSSAIG@ed.gov](mailto:CPSSAIG@ed.gov).

Office for Student Financial Affairs  
S-107 Criser Hall, P. O. Box 114025  
Gainesville, FL 32611-4025  
(352) 392-1275

*NEWS Financial Aid for Gators* is produced once a semester by the Information/Publication Services section of the Office for Student Financial Affairs, to inform students about financial aid programs and services that help UF students meet educational costs.

Director: Karen Fooks  
Associate Director: Ron Anderson  
Editor: Harry Monkhorst

*NEWS Financial Aid for Gators* is available in other formats for students with documented, print-related disabilities. Contact Student Financial Affairs' telephone line for students with disabilities: (352) 392-1272 (V/TED); Florida Relay Service: Dial 711; or 1 (800) 392-3008 (TED). Online at: <http://www.sfa.ufl.edu>

*The University of Florida is committed to equal treatment of students without regard to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, or veteran status.*

## SFA Student Resource Center

SFA has a Student Resource Center, located in S-107 Criser Hall.

Our staff is available to help you apply online, use ISIS to track your financial aid, search for a scholarship, or find a student job.

You can access: ISIS; the U.S. Department of Education *FAFSA on the Web* site; email; UF's online job lists; free scholarship searches, and more. The Resource Center also provides numerous scholarship applications and financial aid publications

## 2008-09 AID is Still Available!

provided by outside agencies throughout the year. Stop by any time during office hours.

The SFA Resource Center is open and staffed from 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.



### Do you still need financial aid for 2008-09?

We encourage applying online using *FAFSA on the Web* at: [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). It's faster, and has built-in edits to help prevent application errors. You can also track the status of your *FAFSA* after you apply.

Students who need help applying online can use the SFA Resource Center in the SFA lobby.

Paper *Gator Aid Application Guides* for 2008-09 are available at SFA in S-107 Criser Hall.

## Can My Initial Award Change?

**Yes.** Initial financial aid awards are our best estimate of what you are eligible to receive. Your award may be increased, reduced, or even canceled if:

- Your family financial circumstances change, causing your need to change.
- You receive any additional outside resource, such as a privately awarded scholarship, which was not listed on your initial award letter.
- You do not enroll for the required number of hours to receive aid through programs awarded you.

- You provided incorrect data on your *FAFSA*.
- You do not maintain academic progress as required by UF's Financial Aid Academic Progress Guidelines (published in the *Gator Aid Handbook*).
- You are suspended by your college or the University.



Financial Aid Addresses & Phone Numbers

### U.S. Department of Education

Student Aid Information Center  
P. O. Box 84

Washington DC 20044-0084  
(800) 433-3243 / (800) 730-8913 (TTY)  
<http://www.ed.gov/finaid/landing.jhtml?src=rt>

Federal Direct Loan Servicing Online  
1 (800) 848-0979; 1 (800) 848-0983 (TTY)  
<https://www.dled.gov/borrower/BorrowerWelcomePage.jsp>

Federal Direct Loan Consolidation  
1 (800) 557-7392; 1 (800) 557-7395 (TTY)  
<http://loanconsolidation.ed.gov>

**"Don't Get Scammed on Your Way to College, and more"**  
<http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/publications.jsp>

## Satellite Aid Offices

*Main Office:* Student Financial Affairs • S-107 Criser Hall • P. O. Box 114025 • Gainesville, FL 32611-4025 • (352) 392-1275

College of Dentistry  
Tom Kolb  
Dental Tower, D3-#17A  
Health Sciences Center  
(352) 273-5999

College of Law  
Carol Huber  
164 Holland Hall  
(352) 273-0620

College of Medicine  
Eileen Parris  
M-128 Health Sciences  
Center  
(352) 273-7939

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