



UF Financial Aid Spring '09

Make Your \$\$\$ Last *budgeting is the key*

It only takes a glance at the headlines to see that these are challenging economic times. Students today face a tightening credit market, ever-increasing education costs, and a rising cost of living. With these challenges, it's all the more important that students budget their money wisely. SFA's Financial Literacy Workshops offer practical advice for students. Watch for our e-mail announcements with dates/times.

Some more tips from SFA:

Develop a budget. Calculate your estimated monthly income, taking into account: savings, earnings from a job, financial aid, etc. Then calculate your estimated monthly expenses, including: rent, meals, Internet access, cell phone, utilities, clothes, books, etc. If your total expenses exceed your total income, you've got some budget cuts to make.

Buy used. Gainesville has a plethora of stores that specialize in used stuff—used bikes, used books, and used clothing are all cheap and in good supply. Buying used isn't just inexpensive, it's environmentally responsible.

Watch your debt load. Students are having to rely more and more on student loans to help pay for college. Consider carefully whether or not to borrow the full amount for which you are eligible. Consider your debt load carefully—for most students, your student loan is probably the beginning of your credit history. Don't borrow more than you can comfortably repay.

Be careful. Students need to be especially vigilant in their electronic dealings. Why? 78% of undergraduates have at least one credit card and carry an average balance of \$2,478; 31% of identity-theft victims fall into the 18-29 age group. SFA will be presenting present several workshops in the spring for students highlighting safe credit practices and how best to avoid identity theft. Watch our Web site for details.

It All Starts with the FAFSA

At UF, applying for financial aid is done by filling out the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)*. All UF aid packages are based on *FAFSA* results, and the U.S. Department of Education uses this form to determine eligibility for federal student aid programs, including Pell Grants, Perkins Loans, and Direct Loans.

Apply On Time *for the Best Aid*

Apply by early February to meet the "on-time" application deadline—**March 15, 2009**. Financial aid is awarded first-come, first-served. Late applicants are considered for aid that **remains** after "on-time" applicants have been awarded. Don't settle for leftovers.

For your application to be considered "on-time," Student Financial Affairs (SFA) must receive your paper or electronic *FAFSA* results, with a calculated Estimated Family Contribution, from the federal processor by March 15. Students whose financial aid files become complete after the deadline will be awarded funds still available at that time.

Apply Online

Upwards of 94 percent of aid applicants nationally now apply online. We recommend filing online with *FAFSA on the Web*. Filing an online *FAFSA* can save you weeks of processing time. It also has edit checks to catch errors. To apply online, go to <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov> and follow the instructions. For assistance, stop by the SFA Student Resource Center in S-107 Criser Hall.

UF Federal School Code: 001535

CALENDAR

JANUARY 5, 2009

2009-10 Financial Aid Applications Available

MARCH 15, 2009

UF "On-Time" 2009-10 Financial Aid Application Deadline

MARCH 20, 2009

Spring Deferred Fee Payment Deadline

APRIL 1, 2009

Spring Short-Term Loan Repayment Deadline

SFA WEB SITE

<http://www.sfa.ufl.edu>

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Financial Aid in the News

Coming in 2009:

New GI Bill

Post 9/11 GI Bill greatly expands benefits

Beginning August 1, 2009, U.S. veterans have a powerful new source of financial aid—the Webb Bill. Also known as the Post 9/11 GI Bill, it offers unprecedented aid to individuals who served on active duty on or after September 11, 2001. Benefits are also extended to certain individuals who were discharged with a service-connected disability. Here are some specifics:

- The new GI Bill now extends benefits to those in the National Guard and Reserve.

- Benefits are prorated, based on length of service. Between 40 and 100 percent of college costs are covered.
- Qualified individuals will receive between 40 and 100 percent of costs in the following three categories:
 1. **Tuition:** based on public, in-state institution
 2. **Housing:** a monthly housing allowance
 3. **Expenses:** a yearly stipend of up to \$1000 per year to cover books and supplies
- Benefits cover four academic years and expire 15 years from the date of discharge.
- There are no enrollment fees as with the Montgomery GI Bill.

For more information, go to the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs Web site, <http://www.gibill.va.gov>.

Factors That Can Affect Your Aid

Receiving Outside Scholarships or Fellowships

Notify us immediately of all assistance you receive from sources other than SFA (such as fellowships, fee waivers, and outside scholarships). Some programs require repayment of aid if you receive more than the amount of your documented financial aid eligibility. If you notify us late of this resource, you may end up having to repay some aid. Report all outside resources on the Additional Aid Reporting page on ISIS at <http://www.isis.ufl.edu>. You can also report additional aid on ISIS through the Awards & Disbursements page.

Changes in Your Family or Financial Circumstances

After filing your FAFSA, your financial situation might change. If any of the following circumstances apply to you or your family, check with your financial aid adviser to see how they might affect your application:

1. Divorce of parents, or you/your spouse.
2. Death of a major wage earner.
3. Lost employment of a major wage earner.
4. Loss of other income or benefits (such as Social Security or child support), by you, your parents, or your spouse.

Late spring is the primary time period to petition your aid award.

Filing as "Independent"

You can file as "independent" for financial aid purposes if you are able to check "YES" to any item in Step Three on the 2009-10 FAFSA. If classified **independent**, your need is evaluated on your own and (if applicable) your spouse's income and assets. If you are classified **dependent**, your parents' assets and income are considered as well as your own when your financial need is determined.

Under extenuating circumstances, you may petition to become "independent." To be classified independent because of marriage, you must be married at the time you complete the FAFSA. Graduate students must be enrolled in an accredited graduate program working towards a graduate-level degree. Post-baccalaureate classes do not entitle one to graduate status.

After Applying: What Next?

Use ISIS:

www.isis.ufl.edu

You are responsible for following up on your application after you submit your FAFSA. Here's how:

Federal Student Aid Report (SAR):

The federal processor sends you an SAR. It indicates your expected family contribution and is used to determine your eligibility for financial aid. If you apply online or provide your email address, you'll get an online SAR as soon as 24 hours after the FAFSA is processed. Make any indicated corrections.

Check Your Aid Status on ISIS:

Check your application and award status on ISIS at <http://www.isis.ufl.edu>, before and after you receive your aid award. Under "Financial Aid," choose "Financial Aid Status" for the correct year.

Verification:

"Verification" is the federal process of checking the accuracy of information students provide on FAFSAs. If your application is selected, you will get an e-mail from us prompting you to check your "Financial Aid Status" on ISIS. Send all requested documents promptly.

Notification of Financial Aid Award:

When UF receives your FAFSA

information from the federal processor and you are admitted to UF, if you are eligible for aid, SFA will award you an aid package. You will get a paper award notice or an email to your GatorLink address. Read it carefully. Follow all instructions, including instructions on ISIS.

Federal Direct Loan Promissory Notes and Loan Acceptance:

If you are awarded a student loan, to receive funds you must:

1. accept your loan(s) on ISIS
2. complete a *Master Promissory Note* at either <http://www.dlnote.ed.gov> or on ISIS;
3. complete Direct Loan Entrance Counseling on ISIS under "Financial Services," *if you are a first-time borrower*. You may also reduce or cancel Stafford loan amounts on ISIS.



Summer Aid CHECKLIST

Contact a financial aid adviser in S-107 Criser Hall if you wish to receive summer aid.

If you need summer funds:

1. Check with your aid adviser to see if you qualify for loans.
2. Line up a part-time summer job; or work in the spring to save for the summer.
3. Apply now for a private scholarship. Check our scholarship bulletin board at <http://www.sfa.ufl.edu/programs/otheraid.html>.

UF Summer Enrollment Policy

An academic year at UF consists of three semesters: fall, spring, and summer. Freshmen and sophomores entering the State University System must complete at least nine credit hours during a summer session to graduate, with the exception of students who earn nine credit hours via the Bright Futures acceleration mechanism. Summer money may be offered to qualified students if:

1. funds are available for summer awards after fall and spring term awards are met; or
2. you choose to use aid originally awarded for the fall or spring term during the summer.

Summer Enrollment to Receive Aid

The session(s) for which you enroll—Summer A, B, and/or C—and the number of hours you enroll determine WHEN you receive your aid, Summer A or B. To receive funds in Summer A (exception: Pell Grant), undergraduates must enroll for at least six credit hours in Summer A and/or C, and graduate students for at least four credit hours in Summer A and/or C. For Federal Work-Study (FWS), you must enroll for at least six credit hours Summer A and/or C to be eligible to work Summer A, or be enrolled for at least three credit hours in Summer A and preregistered for at least three credit hours in Summer B. Disbursement of aid except Pell Grant and FWS is delayed until Summer B, regardless of preregistration for Summer B. For complete information, go to <http://www.sfa.ufl.edu/receiving/summeraid.html>.

Summer Study Abroad & Financial Aid

The UF International Center's Study Abroad Services (SAS) in 123 Grinter Hall offers many overseas study programs. Students awarded financial aid (including scholarships) may continue to receive it while studying overseas, as long as they meet enrollment requirements during the semester(s) they are abroad. SFA coordinates with SAS to help students receive their financial aid. Federal Direct Stafford Loans and PLUS Loans are the primary funds available for study abroad. For more information, go to: <http://www.sfa.ufl.edu/programs/studyingabroad.html>.



STAY CONNECTED

@ UF

Your UFID & Gatorlink

Your UFID (University of Florida ID Number), assigned to you by the university, is your primary identifier for all your UF records and transactions. It is printed on your Gator 1 ID card. You can also find out your UFID online at <http://www.it.ufl.edu/ufid>.

Use your UFID to conduct UF business. For instance, you will use it in conjunction with your GatorLink ID and password to access my.UFL and ISIS. To get a GatorLink account, go to <http://www.gatorlink.ufl.edu>.

Your UFID vs. Your Social Security Number (SSN)

Please note that when you apply for financial aid you will also be asked for your SSN. Your SSN does not function as an ID at UF; however, it is required by the federal government to process your financial aid application.

my.UFL: the UF Web Portal

Students can conduct most UF business through <http://my.UFL.edu>, including ISIS access, updating your mailing address, applying for on-campus student jobs, and accessing Gator Tickets for athletic events. Fees, fines, and other UF bills can be paid directly using my.UFL. You can also read daily UF announcements under Student News.

To access my.UFL, sign in using your GatorLink username and password.

To update Your Mailing Address to Receive UF Business Correspondence:

Sign in with your GatorLink ID and password, choose "My Account," then "Update My Directory Profile."

e-mail from SFA

Check your GatorLink e-mail daily for important financial aid correspondence. SFA uses e-mail as the primary way to communicate with financial aid applicants and recipients.

SFA also generates e-mails directly from students' financial aid files to inform them of requirements they still must complete to receive aid, including loans. Financial aid e-mails often provide a link directly to ISIS.

GatorLink Accounts

SFA sends business e-mails directly to your GatorLink e-mail address. Make sure your GatorLink address is up to date and correctly configured to receive UF business correspondence. To check your GatorLink configurations, go to <http://www.gatorlink.ufl.edu>.

UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

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.

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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). SFA's Website is 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.

Florida Bright Futures

For current information about application, renewal requirements, reinstatements, appeals, summer awards, and other topics, go to the

Florida Department of Education

Web site at <http://www.fldoe.org>

Send questions by e-mail to:

OSFA@fldoe.org

Send mail to:

Florida Department of Education
Turlington Building, Suite 1514
325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Toll-Free Hotline: 1-888-827-2004

General Info: 1-800-366-3475

APPLY NOW "ON-TIME" DEADLINE:
MARCH 15

For 2009-2010
Financial Aid

FAFSA on the Web: www.fafsa.ed.gov
Or go to: www.sfa.ufl.edu

Student Financial Affairs • S-107 Criser Hall • (352) 392-1275
A Division of Student Affairs Department—Educating Leaders for a Global Community

UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA
The Foundation for The Gator Nation

SFA Forms on the Web FREE Scholarship Searches

SFA forms such as *Budget Petitions*, *Academic Progress Petitions*, and verification forms are available on our Web site, <http://www.sfa.ufl.edu/pub/publications.html>. These forms are in .pdf format and require Adobe Reader 5.0 or higher. Check with your aid adviser **before** printing verification forms.

Spring 2009 Aid Still Available

If you need financial aid for Spring or Summer 2009 term, apply immediately. Financial aid applications and copies of the 2008-09 *Gator Aid Application Guide* are still available at SFA in S-107 Criser Hall. We encourage students to apply online using *FAFSA on the Web* at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>.



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/>

Federal Direct Loan Servicing Online

1 (800) 848-0979; 1 (800) 848-0983 (TTY)

<https://www.dlssonline.com/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-#19E
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

Public Health and Health

Professions; Nursing; Pharmacy;

& Veterinary Medicine

Mike Menefee

HPNP Bldg.
G208 Student Services Ctr.
(352) 273-6202

Masters in Business

Administration (MBA)

Connie Reed

P-102-I Peabody Hall
(353) 392-1275 (ext.3386)