



Financial Assistance

Purpose

Financial assistance is available to eligible students to help defray educational expenses. This assistance may be used to meet both direct educational charges (tuition, fees, books) and personal living expenses (food, housing, transportation).

Financial assistance includes tuition discounts, grants, scholarships, employment and loan dollars. Students and parents are encouraged to contact the financial assistance office for information or visit the financial assistance website: www.emu.edu/financialaid.

Upon receipt of an application for admission, the admissions office will send new students instructions and application forms for financial assistance. Continuing students are notified annually about the distribution and deadlines of financial assistance application forms.

A student must reapply for financial assistance each academic year.

Eligibility and Application

To be eligible for financial assistance, a student must be enrolled at least half-time and must maintain “satisfactory academic progress” by achieving a 2.0 grade point average and completing at least 66.67% of credit hours attempted by the end of the second academic year of enrollment. Some institutional aid programs, such as academic scholarships, may have additional satisfactory academic progress requirements.

Assistance is based on one or more of the following criteria: grade level, application date, GPA, level of financial need, test scores, state of residence, receipt of other aid, and parental employment. EMU uses the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to determine financial need. Following receipt of appropriate applications, the financial assistance office will send each applicant a Financial Assistance Award Letter detailing eligibility for all applicable aid programs.

Anticipated changes in enrollment status or failure to maintain “satisfactory academic progress” should be discussed with the financial assistance office to determine the effect on eligibility.

Students who lose federal aid eligibility based on GPA or percentage of hours completed may regain aid eligibility only after achieving a cumulative EMU GPA of 2.0 and earning an EMU “hours completed” percentage of at least 66.67%. Academic scholarships that are lost due to unsatisfactory academic progress may not be regained.

Distribution of Aid

Aid is distributed among students based on various eligibility criteria and in a manner consistent with enrollment management goals. The specific “awarding policy” for each year is available upon request.

Aid awards are usually divided equally between semesters. Subject to meeting program eligibility requirements, finan-

cial aid (except student employment earnings) is credited directly to students' tuition accounts at the beginning of each semester. Student and parent loan funds and funds from non-EMU scholarship agencies are credited to students' accounts upon receipt and endorsement of checks or upon receipt of electronic fund transfer sent or transmitted from the funding source. Student employees are issued monthly pay checks based on hours worked.

Types of Assistance

Discounts

Students whose parents are employed by a Mennonite institution may be eligible for tuition discounts. Special restrictions apply.

Grants

A grant is an award that does not need to be repaid. Federal need-based grants include the Federal Pell Grant and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, Academic Competitive Grant (ACG) and SMART grant. ACG and SMART grants also carry academic requirements.

State grants include Virginia Tuition Assistance Grant, Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Authority (PHEAA) Grant, Virginia Scholarship Assistance Program (need-based) and other state grants.

EMU grants include International Student Tuition Grants, Matching Congregation/Conference Grants, need-based EMU Grants and need-based AHANA (African, Hispanic, Asian and Native American) Grants.

Scholarships

EMU offers renewable scholarships to new students based on standardized test scores and high school or previous college GPAs. Prospective students are invited to contact the admissions

office for further details regarding these scholarships.

Outside scholarships may be obtained through community, civic, business and church organizations.

Employment Opportunities

On-campus employment may be available to students who apply for financial assistance.

Terms and conditions of employment are outlined on the Student Employment Contract which must be signed by each employee. Students must complete an I-9 form and annually complete federal and state withholding certificates.

Loans

Educational loans are available for college expenses and must be repaid. Loans available include Federal Subsidized Stafford Loan, Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, Federal Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students, Federal Perkins Loan, Federal Nursing Loan and other loan programs.

Loan application procedures are outlined in an insert provided with the Financial Assistance Award Letter.

Study Abroad Programs

Financial aid is available for some "study abroad" arrangements. Arrangements are made with the Director of Cross-cultural Programs and must specify EMU as the "home" institution and enrollment in a study abroad program must be through EMU.

Rights and Responsibilities

Students and parents have the right to know the specific criteria of each aid award. Students and parents are responsible to provide full and accurate disclosure on aid application forms and to meet specific deadlines.

Students receiving loans must complete entrance and exit interviews as prescribed by federal student aid regulations for the purpose of reviewing borrower rights and responsibilities, typical

repayment schedules and interest rate information. Details about deferment options are reviewed during the exit interview.

Refund/Repayment Policy

Students who withdraw, drop out, are dismissed or otherwise cease enrollment prior to the 10th week of a regular semester or the 10th day of a summer term shall receive a credit toward institutional charges determined by the remaining weeks of the payment/enrollment period.

Students who have been awarded student aid will have the amount of student aid that has been “earned” determined by a specific formula, which must be applied to federal funds. If the student has been awarded more aid than has been “earned,” the excess amount will be returned. The amount of excess assistance that is returned is equal to the lesser of the student’s institutional charges multiplied by the unearned percentage of funds, or the entire amount of the excess funds.

If EMU is not required to return all of the excess funds, the student must return the remaining amount. Any loan funds that must be returned are repaid in accordance with the terms of the

promissory note. If a student must return grant funds, the student must return only 50 percent of the grant assistance that is his/her responsibility to repay.

Full details and examples of the refund and repayment policies are available upon request from the Financial Assistance and Student Accounts Offices and are located in the Student Handbook.

Students are encouraged to review the schedule of refundable and non-refundable charges and deposits which is published annually by the student accounts office.

Students who withdraw prior to the first day of classes shall receive a full refund of all payments made except tuition deposits.

Drop/Add Policy

Adjustments to financial aid awards will occur if classes are dropped prior to the point in each term described generally as “the last day to drop and receive a ‘W’ grade.”

Consumer Information

For financial assistance and other consumer information required by the federal government to be available to students, see the director of financial assistance.