SUMMER 2017 FINANCIAL AID FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who can apply and be considered for summer financial aid?

- UMass Amherst students currently enrolled in a degree-granting program and maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP).

How do I apply for summer financial aid?

- File the 2016-2017 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Complete a 2017 Application for Summer Financial Aid form.
- Comply with requests for additional documents, if needed.
- Resolve all financial obligations with the University.

Where can I get an application and other forms for summer financial aid?

- On the web at umass.edu/umfa/forms
- All forms are E-Sign, interactive PDFs that can be completed, signed and submitted online.
  - Click on the form to go to the Adobe E-Sign.
  - Complete the information.
  - Sign it and submit.
  - You may have to confirm email address to complete submission.
- You may also submit your application materials in person or by mail to Financial Aid Services at 243 Whitmore Administration Building.

How do I register for summer classes?

Matriculated students:

- Register through SPIRE prior to summer financial aid being awarded. It is your responsibility to ensure your application is processed by monitoring your SPIRE To Do List and your UMass email account.

Students going on a Study Abroad/Exchange Program during the summer session:

- Contact the International Programs Office (IPO) to register for classes and have your program approved.
- If you want to be considered for financial aid for summer 2017 term, file a 2016-2017 FAFSA and submit a completed Summer 2017 Study Abroad Financial Aid Application, available at umass.edu/umfa/forms.

What types of financial aid are available for summer?

- Summer Work-Study, Federal Pell Grant for eligible students, Federal Direct Loans and Alternative Loans.
  - To receive a Federal Direct Loan, you must be enrolled in a minimum of 6 credits.
  - Students graduating in May 2017 are not eligible for Federal financial aid or Summer Work-Study.
- Alternative Loans and Federal PLUS Loans up to the cost of attendance minus any financial aid received. We encourage you to apply for Federal financial aid first. Remember to borrow responsibly. Loans are a debt that must be repaid with interest.

Do I have to take classes to be considered for summer financial aid?

- If you are applying for Summer Work-Study only, you are not required to enroll in classes. You must be a returning student for the fall 2017 semester.
- To receive any Federal Direct Loans, you must be enrolled in at least 6 credits.
- If you are a graduate student working on a dissertation or field research considered at least half-time by your Program Director, you may be eligible for summer financial aid.
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How much summer financial aid will I receive?

- You may receive up to the cost of attendance for the summer session, which includes tuition, fees, and room and board. Your award may include a Federal Pell Grant if eligible, Federal Direct Loans, and/or up to $3,900 in Summer Work-Study, if eligible.

**Please Note:** Your Pell Grant and Federal Direct Loans may be limited and/or unavailable if you received your maximum annual award during the 2016-17 academic year. If the cost of your courses exceeds your summer financial aid award amount, you are responsible for paying the difference.

How will summer financial aid affect my academic year aid?

- Your Federal Direct Loans may be limited if you have reached your annual and/or lifetime loan aggregate.

Will I receive summer financial aid to pay for living expenses?

- Your cost of attendance for the summer includes a room and board allowance. The financial aid you may be eligible for may not cover all these costs. You may want to consider applying for an Alternative Loan to pay for these expenses. You may also earn Work-Study to help pay for living expenses, if eligible.

Can I receive summer financial aid for the summer if I enroll at another school?

- No, summer financial aid is available only for classes taken through UMass Amherst.

Can I apply for an alternative loan to cover my summer expenses?

- Yes, but we recommend that you apply for Federal Direct Loans first.

How will my financial aid be affected if I take less than 6 credits or drop a course?

- If you do not enroll for the minimum number of credits, Federal Direct Loans will not be awarded.
- If you fall below the required 6 credit minimum, Federal Direct Loans will be cancelled.
- Pell Grants will be adjusted or cancelled.

Will I receive financial aid if I am enrolled in a Summer Abroad Program?

- Yes, if ALL of the following conditions are met:
  - The program has been approved by the UMass Amherst International Programs Office (IPO).
  - You will receive at least 6 credits during the summer term.
  - You have a valid 2016-2017 FAFSA on file and are maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP).
  - You have submitted a completed Summer 2017 Study Abroad Financial Aid Application.

Will I receive financial aid if I am doing a Summer Internship or Independent Study?

- Yes, if the Internship or Independent Study is credit-approved academic work and registered with the UMass Amherst Continuing & Professional Education for at least 6 credits. Please see your sponsoring professor or Program Director.

Will I receive summer financial aid if I am not maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)?

- No, you must resolve all Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) issue by July 14, 2017 for your summer financial aid application to be considered.

When will the financial aid be applied to my bill?

- The disbursement of summer aid will occur on a nightly basis on or after July 1, 2017, once your enrollment of 6 or more credits is verified and your SPIRE To Do List is completed. *Disbursed means the day the summer funds are credited to your University bill, not the day you will receive an excess/refund.*
- The disbursement of summer Alternative Loans will occur at the time the funds are received as long as you meet the eligibility/lender criteria for the loan. Alternative Loan funds are received twice weekly by UMass Amherst.

If I am eligible for a refund, when will it be available?

- If you are eligible for a refund you will receive it through the Excess Express process. For more information about Excess Express visit the Bursar’s website at: [umass.edu/bursar](http://umass.edu/bursar).