# Table of Contents

FINANCIAL AID HANDBOOK ................................................................................................. 1
TABLE OF CONTENTS ........................................................................................................ 2
INTRODUCTION .................................................................................................................. 4
FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY ............................................................................................ 5
COST OF ATTENDANCE ...................................................................................................... 6
  Institutional Charges ........................................................................................................ 6
EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION .............................................................................. 7
  Financial Need ................................................................................................................ 7
VERIFICATION ................................................................................................................... 8
  Deadlines ....................................................................................................................... 8
PROFESSIONAL JUDGEMENT ......................................................................................... 9
  Examples of Circumstances Considered ................................................................. 9
  Examples of Circumstances Not Considered ........................................................... 9
TYPES OF AID .................................................................................................................. 10
  Scholarships ................................................................................................................ 10
    DigiPen Scholarships ............................................................................................... 10
    Private/Outside Scholarships .................................................................................. 14
  Grants ........................................................................................................................... 15
    Federal Pell Grant ..................................................................................................... 15
    Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) ....................... 15
    Federal Iraq And Afghanistan Service Grant ...................................................... 16
    Washington College Grant .................................................................................... 17
    Washington College Bound Scholarship ............................................................ 18
  Loans ............................................................................................................................ 18
    Direct Subsidized Student Loan ............................................................................ 19
    Direct Unsubsidized Student Loan ....................................................................... 20
    Direct Student Loan Annual and Aggregate Limits (excluding accrued and capitalized interest) ........................................................................................................... 20
    Direct Graduate Plus Loan .................................................................................... 22
    Direct Parent Plus Loan ........................................................................................ 24
    Private Education Loans ....................................................................................... 25
    Direct to Consumer Loans (DTC Loan) ............................................................... 25
  Federal Work-Study/Student Employment .................................................................. 25
    On-Campus Jobs ..................................................................................................... 26
CODE OF CONDUCT FOR OUR FINANCIAL AID STAFF ............................................ 27
COMMUNICATION WITH STUDENTS ........................................................................... 28
  FERPA ......................................................................................................................... 28
IMPORTANT DEADLINES

2021-2022 Financial Aid Calendar
Processing Time

PAYING YOUR BILL

Financial Aid Disbursements
Credit Balance Refunds

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

What is Satisfactory Academic Progress?
What are the Minimum Requirements to Maintain SAP?
GPA Requirements – Undergraduate
GPA Requirements – Graduate
Pace Requirements

How Often is SAP Reviewed?

What is Financial Aid Warning and When Does it Occur?
What is Financial Aid Termination and When Does it Occur?
Can a Student Appeal Financial Aid Termination?

Financial Aid Probation
Regaining Eligibility

WITHDRAWALS

Definition of Withdrawal

FEDERAL RETURN OF TITLE IV FUNDS (R2T4) POLICY

Return of State Financial Aid
Return of Institutional Financial Aid
Return of Funding from Outside Sources
Return of Funding from Private Loans

INSTITUTIONAL REFUND POLICY

SPECIAL PROGRAMS/POPULATIONS

VA Tuition Benefits

POLICIES AND DISCLOSURES
Introduction

A high-quality, personalized education at DigiPen Institute of Technology is an investment in each student’s future success. We recognize that some students and their families may need assistance to meet some of their college costs. We encourage DigiPen Institute of Technology students to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which allows us to consider you for financial aid. The role of the Office of Financial Aid is to try to help fill the gap that exists between the cost of attendance and funds available from your family.

While we try to meet as much of your financial need as possible, funding is limited. In order to receive maximum consideration of your funding needs, you must meet important timelines and follow procedures.

This handbook is designed to provide you with information on the financial aid application process, what types of aid are available, the terms and conditions of the aid, and common questions students and families have related to financial aid at different stages of the process. More information can be found on the financial aid website (listed below) or by contacting the Office of Financial Aid directly.

If you have questions after you have read this handbook, contact the Office of Financial Aid.

Office of Financial Aid
9931 Willows Road NE
Redmond, WA 98052
Phone: (425) 629-5002 | Toll Free: (866) 478-5236
Email: faid@digipen.edu
www.digipen.edu

You may also stop by the office located on the 2nd floor of DigiPen’s Redmond Campus.

Office hours — 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

Advisors are available for in-person or phone appointments. You can schedule online to ensure someone is available.
Financial Aid Eligibility

All current and prospective DigiPen Institute of Technology students are encouraged to apply for financial aid by completing a FAFSA at fafsa.gov. The FAFSA is required for many forms of financial aid, including federal, state, and some institutional forms of aid. File a FAFSA every year to be considered for all available aid.

General eligibility requirements for financial aid are listed below. Not all of these requirements apply to all forms of financial aid.

- Be regularly admitted to DigiPen.
- Have a high school diploma or GED certificate.
- Be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen as defined by the Department of Education.
- Demonstrate financial need for some types of aid.
- Not owe a refund on or be in default on any Title IV or HEA grant or loan.
- Be making satisfactory academic progress toward a degree.
- Be registered with the Selective Service, if required to do so by law.
- For many types of aid, students must be enrolled full-time (12 credits undergraduate and 9 credits graduate); some forms of aid are available to students enrolled less than full time.
- For federal student loan eligibility, be enrolled at least halftime.
- For Washington State Aid, be a Washington resident as defined by state law.

Eligibility differs based on the type of aid and criteria set by the funding source. Eligibility criteria may include merit, financial need, unique student characteristics, or a combination of these criteria. See Types of Aid for specific eligibility criteria.

Financial aid is intended to pay for courses that are required to complete your declared degree(s), and/or major(s). If you are planning to take courses that do not directly fulfill an academic requirement, contact the Office of Financial Aid to determine how aid may be affected.

1 Audited courses, courses not taken for credit, and courses outside of a student’s program are not included when determining enrollment status.
2 Minor courses are not eligible for federal financial aid. All minor courses will not count towards a student’s total enrollment level.
Cost of Attendance

The Cost of Attendance (COA) is a standardized set of budgets used as a basis for determining maximum aid eligibility. The COA generally includes tuition, fees, room and board, books and supplies, transportation expenses, and personal expenses. The COA can vary based on program of study, living arrangements while in school, and a wide variety of other factors. On a case by case basis, COA can also be increased to include expenses such as child care, insurance, computer purchase and additional fees. To request a COA increase, request a “Cost of Attendance Appeal” form from the Office of Financial Aid.

Institutional Charges

The following are prices for the 2021-22 academic year. Your cost of attendance may include these prices as well as out-of-pocket expenses, such as books, transportation, personal expenses and off-campus housing. You can see your individual cost of attendance in Colleague Self-Service.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TUITION</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time Undergraduate</td>
<td>(16+ credit hours)</td>
<td>$17,450/semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time Undergraduate</td>
<td>(1 to 15 credit hours)</td>
<td>$1,118/credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate – Full-time MSCS</td>
<td>(9+ credits)</td>
<td>$10,927/semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate – Full-time MFA</td>
<td>(12+ credits)</td>
<td>$14,550/semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FEES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration Fee</td>
<td></td>
<td>$50/semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology Fee</td>
<td></td>
<td>$50/semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ROOM AND BOARD</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off-Campus Housing &amp; Food</td>
<td></td>
<td>$11,000/year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W/Parents Housing &amp; Food</td>
<td></td>
<td>$3,136/year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OTHER EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books &amp; Supplies</td>
<td>(estimated; varies)</td>
<td>$1,452/year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laptop</td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,200/once</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan Fees (Undergraduate)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$112/year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan Fees (Graduate)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$184/year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Expenses</td>
<td>(estimated; varies)</td>
<td>$1,608/year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>(estimated; varies)</td>
<td>$1,112/year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Expected Family Contribution

The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is the number used to determine your eligibility for need-based financial aid. This is determined based on the information you provide on the FAFSA. The EFC is calculated using the federal methodology formula which is approved by Congress. The formula takes several factors into consideration, including:

- Dependency status
- Family size
- Number of family members in college
- Student and parent/spouse income
- Student and parent/spouse assets

The EFC is not the amount of money that you or your family must provide. Rather, the EFC is an index that schools use to determine your eligibility for federal, state, and institutional aid.

### Financial Need

Financial need is determined by the following formula:

\[
\text{Cost of Attendance (COA)} - \text{Expected Family Contribution (EFC)} = \text{Financial Need (Need)}
\]

The Office of Financial Aid will use the results of this formula to create an award package for you with different types of available aid, including grants, scholarships, federal work-study, and subsidized loans. However, because funding is limited, your entire financial need may not be met. The remainder of your financial aid package can be filled with other types of loans or scholarships from outside organizations. You can see your individual need calculation in Colleague Self-Service.
Verification

Verification is a review process in which the Office of Financial Aid ensures the accuracy of the information on the student's FAFSA. During the verification process the student and family/spouse will be required to submit documentation for the amounts listed (or not listed) on the FAFSA.

If there is an asterisk next to the EFC figure on your Student Aid Report (SAR), then you have been selected for verification. You may also be selected for verification by DigiPen Institute of Technology. You will be notified by DigiPen if you are selected for verification.

The following documentation may be required as part of verification:

- Verification Worksheet
- Student (and spouse, if applicable) tax documentation – fulfilled by either returning to the FAFSA and completing the IRS Data Retrieval Process or by submitting a copy of your tax return transcript obtained at [www.irs.gov/transcript](http://www.irs.gov/transcript)
- Parent (if applicable) tax documentation – fulfilled by either returning to the FAFSA and completing the IRS Data Retrieval Process or by submitting a copy of your tax return transcript, obtained at [www.irs.gov/transcript](http://www.irs.gov/transcript)
- Additional documents, as necessary

The Office of Financial Aid will inform you via email of what forms and documents are required. **Please submit only what is requested of you.**

If any discrepancies are uncovered during verification, the Office of Financial Aid may require additional information for clarification. Such discrepancies may cause your final financial aid package to change from the initial offer.

If you choose not to submit the required documentation, you will no longer be eligible for federal or state aid.

Verification concerns applicants for most Federal Student Aid programs but is not required if the student will only receive a Parent or Graduate PLUS loan or Direct Unsubsidized loan because these loans are not based on need. However, a student cannot avoid verification by choosing to borrow a Direct Unsubsidized loan if he or she is eligible for a Direct Subsidized loan.

Deadlines

You must submit complete verification documents one month before your last date of enrollment for the 2021-22 year to receive aid for the year. Documents received after this deadline may not be processed.
Professional Judgement

We recognize that the FAFSA may not always portray an accurate picture of your financial situation. Although considerations for specific situations are limited, we may be able to give additional consideration as described below. If you believe you have a special circumstance, please contact the Office of Financial Aid and request a “Professional Judgement Appeal Form.”

Examples of Circumstances Considered

- Unusual cost of attendance components over and above the normal COA such as health insurance, child care, disability related expenses, etc.
- Catastrophic medical/dental care expenses
- Loss or reduction of income (layoff, illness, forced reduction of hours, temporary employment, etc.) or benefits (unemployment, disability, social security, child support, alimony, etc.)
- Non-reoccurring payments received
- Death, divorce, separation

Examples of Circumstances Not Considered

- Increase of standard living expenses
- Purchasing material items such as a car, home appliances, vacations, second homes
- Reduction of assets
- Credit issues, line of credit changes, previous student loan debt, etc.
- Siblings or parents who are also attending college. Siblings are already taken into account on the FAFSA.

Decisions are final and will be communicated directly to the student. Any additional funding awarded is only available for the academic year for which the special circumstance is approved. Special circumstances must be reviewed annually. Please do not submit documents unless instructed by our office.

You will be notified of all changes made throughout the process. Aid may be increased, remain the same, or be decreased as a result of this process. Additional aid is not guaranteed.
Types of Aid

Financial aid includes any scholarship, grant, loan, or employment that helps students whose personal and family resources cannot meet the full cost of attending DigiPen Institute of Technology. Aid can be need-based (awarded because of your financial need) or it can be merit-based (awarded because of your unique talents or academic ability).

Scholarships

Generally, scholarships are reserved for students with special qualifications, such as academic, artistic or other talent and do not have to be repaid. Awards are also available for students who are interested in particular fields of study, who are members of underrepresented groups, who live in certain areas of the country or who demonstrate financial need.

DIGIPEN SCHOLARSHIPS

DigiPen Institute of Technology has several merit scholarships awarded to students based on academic ability.

_DigiPen Merit Scholarships_

If you qualify and are awarded a merit scholarship, your acceptance letter from the Office of Admissions will include the amount of your scholarship.

If you choose to apply for additional financial aid, the merit scholarship will be incorporated into your financial aid package and listed on your financial aid offer letter.

Application Procedures

Students who apply for admission to DigiPen are automatically considered for merit scholarships. A separate application is not required.

Criteria for Renewal

Merit awards are available for 8 semesters (fall and spring) of academic study at DigiPen Institute of Technology. Students utilizing less than 8 semesters of eligibility will not be eligible for an increased merit scholarship during their last semester prior to graduation.

To be eligible for renewal, students must:

- Be enrolled full-time\(^3\), and
- Meet all components of the _Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress_ policy by the end of each academic year,
- Students who completely withdraw from DigiPen will lose their DIT scholarship moving forward\(^4\).

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\(^3\) Full-time enrollment is 12 credits for undergraduates and 9 credits for graduate students. In the final term before graduation, students can receive their merit scholarship at less than full time enrollment only if they need less than 12 credits to complete their degree.

\(^4\) Students who are on an approved hardship withdrawal are eligible to have their merit scholarship reinstated upon their return to DigiPen as long as they return within one calendar year.
• Students who are enrolled less than full time due to completing an internship with DigiPen, will not receive their merit scholarship during the term of their internship. However, their merit scholarship will be reinstated upon their return to full time enrollment.

**DigiPen Bridge Scholarships**

Incoming students with exceptional financial need are able to apply for the DigiPen Bridge Scholarship.

**Application Procedures**

• Students are able to fill out the Bridge Scholarship Application starting October 1st of each year on the DigiPen website.
• Final deadline for Bridge Scholarship is April 1st each year.

**Criteria for Renewal**

Bridge Scholarships are renewable for up to 8 semesters (fall and spring) of academic study at DigiPen Institute of Technology.

To be eligible for renewal, students must:

• Be enrolled full-time\(^5\), and
• Meet all components of the *Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress* policy by the end of each academic year,
• Students who completely withdraw from DigiPen will lose their DIT scholarship moving forward\(^6\).
• Students who are enrolled less than full time due to completing an internship with DigiPen, will not receive their merit scholarship during the term of their internship. However, their merit scholarship will be reinstated upon their return to full time enrollment.

**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Scholarship**

The DigiPen Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Scholarship supports DigiPen’s commitment to using education as a social equalizer and ensuring that all students have equitable access to DigiPen’s education. The following factors may be considered in the selection process:

• Complete the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Scholarship application on the DigiPen’s website.
• Personal Background, extra-curriculars, awards, or community service.
• Part of an underserved group, including but not limited to:
  • Women in STEM
  • Historically underrepresented minority students
  • Students who are the first in their family to pursue a college degree
  • Youth in foster care
  • LGBTQIA+ students
  • Students with disabilities

---

\(^5\) Full-time enrollment is 12 credits for undergraduates and 9 credits for graduate students. In the final term before graduation, students can receive their merit scholarship at less than full time enrollment only if they need less than 12 credits to complete their degree.

\(^6\) Students who are on an approved hardship withdrawal are eligible to have their merit scholarship reinstated upon their return to DigiPen as long as they return within one calendar year.
Criteria for Renewal

Diversity Scholarships are renewable for up to 8 semesters (fall and spring) of academic study at DigiPen Institute of Technology.

To be eligible for renewal, students must:

- Be enrolled full-time\(^7\), and
- Meet all components of the **Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress** policy by the end of each academic year,
- Students who completely withdraw from DigiPen will lose their DIT scholarship moving forward\(^8\).
- Students who are enrolled less than full time due to completing an internship with DigiPen, will not receive their scholarship during the term of their internship. However, their scholarship will be reinstated upon their return to full time enrollment.

**Promoting BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) Success in STEAM**

We recognize that diverse voices and perspectives enrich the educational environment, yet we acknowledge that college can remain unaffordable for many. With this in mind, we are now offering this scholarship to support Black and Indigenous students, as well as those who may have suffered from historical and systemic racism and discrimination. The following will be considered in the selection process:

- Complete the BIPOC Scholarship application available on the DigiPen website
- Applicant’s demographic information

Criteria for Renewal

BIPOC Scholarships are renewable for up to 8 semesters (fall and spring) of academic study at DigiPen Institute of Technology.

To be eligible for renewal, students must:

- Be enrolled full-time\(^9\), and
- Meet all components of the **Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress** policy by the end of each academic year,
- Students who completely withdraw from DigiPen will lose their DIT scholarship moving forward\(^10\).
- Students who are enrolled less than full time due to completing an internship with DigiPen, will not receive their scholarship during the term of their internship. However, their scholarship will be reinstated upon their return to full time enrollment.

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\(^7\) Full-time enrollment is 12 credits for undergraduates and 9 credits for graduate students. In the final term before graduation, students can receive their merit scholarship at less than full time enrollment only if they need less than 12 credits to complete their degree.

\(^8\) Students who are on an approved hardship withdrawal are eligible to have their merit scholarship reinstated upon their return to DigiPen as long as they return within one calendar year.

\(^9\) Full-time enrollment is 12 credits for undergraduates and 9 credits for graduate students. In the final term before graduation, students can receive their merit scholarship at less than full time enrollment only if they need less than 12 credits to complete their degree.

\(^10\) Students who are on an approved hardship withdrawal are eligible to have their merit scholarship reinstated upon their return to DigiPen as long as they return within one calendar year.
**Continuing Student Scholarships**

Continuing DigiPen students (graduate and undergraduate) who complete a continuing student scholarship application can apply for three continuing student scholarships.

- DigiPen Continuing Student Academic Success Scholarship
- DigiPen Continuing Student Financial Stimulus Scholarship
- DigiPen Continuing Student Leadership Scholarship

**Application Procedures**

- Complete the Continuing Student Scholarship Application available starting October 1st of each year on the DigiPen website.

**Selection Criteria – Academic Success Scholarship**

- Be a currently attending freshman, sophomore, junior, senior or graduate student at DigiPen
- Demonstrate continued academic success.

**Selection Criteria – Financial Stimulus Scholarship**

- Be a currently attending freshman, sophomore, junior, senior or graduate student at DigiPen
- Demonstrate considerable financial need.

**Selection Criteria – Leadership Scholarship**

- Be a currently attending, freshman, sophomore, junior, senior or graduate student at DigiPen
- Demonstrate leadership skills through active participation in campus activities.
- Submit a letter of recommendation from a staff or faculty member at DigiPen

**Criteria for Renewal**

Continuing Student Scholarships are awarded for one year and not guaranteed in subsequent years. Students will need to reapply each year to be considered for these scholarships.

**International Transfer Scholarships**

In an effort to promote diversity on campus and encourage the development of talent from around the world, ISS is happy to offer the following merit-based transfer scholarship.

**Application Procedures**

Transfer Students who apply for admission to DigiPen are automatically considered for International Transfer Scholarships. A separate application is not required.

- Level One: GPA 3.7 and above - $5,000/year
- Level Two: GPA 3.2 and above - $2,000/year

Any F-1 international student who:

- Has completed a minimum of 45 quarter/30 semester credits of college level classes at any US college(s) and earned the required GPA in the last 24 months in any field of study.
- Has maintained F-1 status without any legal violation while enrolled at the US college(s) and holds the valid legal F-1 status until matriculated into DigiPen.
- Does not qualify for Financial Aid.
Criteria for Renewal

Transfer Scholarships are renewable for up to 8 semesters (fall and spring) of academic study at DigiPen Institute of Technology.

To be eligible for renewal, students must:

- Be enrolled full-time\(^{11}\), and
- Meet all components of the Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress policy by the end of each academic year,
- Students who completely withdraw from DigiPen will lose their DIT scholarship moving forward. \(^{12}\)

Shield Scholarship

The Shield Scholarship provides aid a semester at a time for students who may need additional assistance within an academic year after completing a Free Application for Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA) and exhausting all other financial assistance options.

- Max Award: Awarded on a case-by-case basis. Varies by financial need.
- Rolling Deadline: Scholarship applications are reviewed on a rolling basis and will close once all funds are awarded for the year.
- Degree Restrictions: None

Application Procedures

This scholarship is open to incoming and current DigiPen students. Both U.S. citizens and international students may apply. To apply for a Shield Scholarship:

- Incoming students will first need to complete the Bridge Scholarship application (when available).
- Matriculated students will first need to complete the application for a Continuing Student Scholarship for the next aid year (when available).
- All students who wish to be considered will need to complete the Shield Scholarship application available on the DigiPen website.

PRIVATE/OUTSIDE SCHOLARSHIPS

Private scholarships come from a wide variety of sources. Look for scholarships from your high school, local clubs, national organizations, foundations, and many others. Scholarship search services provide students with an efficient way to search for scholarships. Scholarship search services should be free. We discourage students from paying for these services. If you receive a private scholarship, notify the Office of Financial Aid in writing. Your award may need to be adjusted in order to stay within federal guidelines. Whenever possible, we will reduce loans and work-study first.

\(^{11}\) Full-time enrollment is 12 credits for undergraduates and 9 credits for graduate students. In the final term before graduation, students can receive their merit scholarship at less than full time enrollment only if they need less than 12 credits to complete their degree.

\(^{12}\) Students who are on an approved hardship withdrawal are eligible to have their merit scholarship reinstated upon their return to DigiPen as long as they return within one calendar year.
Grants
Grants are a form of financial aid, based on financial need, which you do not have to repay.

FEDERAL PELL GRANT

Application Procedures
To be considered for a Federal Pell Grant, students must:
- File a FAFSA; and
- Complete verification, if selected.

Selection Criteria
To qualify for a Federal Pell Grant, students must:
- Meet all eligibility requirements to receive Title IV Aid;
- Demonstrate financial need; and
- Be an undergraduate student enrolled at a qualifying college working on a first baccalaureate degree.  

Award Amount
- Depends on EFC and level of enrollment (full time, ¾ time, ½ time, less than ½ time)
- Maximum scheduled award for 2021-22 is $6,495
- Students may receive up to 150% of their scheduled award, depending on enrollment term and level

Criteria for Renewal
To be eligible for renewal, students must:
- File a FAFSA in a subsequent aid year;
- Continue to demonstrate sufficient financial need;
- Continue to meet all other eligibility criteria prescribed by the Department of Education; and
- Meet all components of the Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress policy each term.

Pell-eligible students may receive a credit balance refund to purchase textbooks and required supplies from the bookstore at DigiPen Institute of Technology.

FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GRANT (FSEOG)

Application Procedures
To be considered for a Federal Opportunity Grant, students must:
- File a FAFSA; and
- Complete verification, if selected.

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13 Students may only receive the equivalent of 12 full time semesters of Pell Grant throughout their academic career.
Selection Criteria

To qualify, you must:

- Meet all eligibility requirements to receive Title IV Aid;
- Demonstrate financial need;
- Be an undergraduate student enrolled at a qualifying college working on a first baccalaureate degree; and
- Be a Federal Pell Grant recipient.\footnote{Funds are limited and awarded to students with the lowest EFC first.}

Award Amount

- Up to $2,000
- Funds are awarded on a first come, first serve basis and funding is limited

Criteria for Renewal

To be eligible for renewal, students must:

- File a FAFSA in a subsequent aid year;
- Continue to demonstrate sufficient financial need;
- Continue to meet all other eligibility criteria prescribed by the Department of Education; and
- Meet all components of the \textit{Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress} policy each term.

FEDERAL IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN SERVICE GRANT

Application Procedures

To be considered for a Federal Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant, students must:

- File a FAFSA; and
- Complete verification, if selected

Selection Criteria

To qualify, a student must:

- Meet all eligibility requirements to receive Title IV Aid;
- Be an undergraduate student enrolled at a qualifying college working on a first baccalaureate degree\footnote{Students may only receive the equivalent of 12 full time semesters of Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant throughout their academic career.};
- Not be eligible for a Federal Pell Grant based on EFC but meet all other requirements for a Federal Pell Grant;
- Have a parent or guardian who was a member of the US armed forces and died as a result of military service performed in Iraq or Afghanistan after the events of 9/11; and
- Be under 24 years old or enrolled in college at least part-time at the time of the parent’s/guardian’s death.
Award Amount

- Maximum scheduled award for 2021-22 is $6,495
- Depends on level of enrollment (full time, ¾ time, ½ time, less than ½ time)

Criteria for Renewal

To be eligible for renewal, students must:

- File a FAFSA in a subsequent aid year;
- Continue to meet all other eligibility criteria prescribed by the Department of Education

WASHINGTON COLLEGE GRANT

The Washington College Grant is based on financial need as determined by completion of the FAFSA, Renewal FAFSA application, or Washington State Financial Aid Application (WASFA). Funding is limited and Washington residents should complete an application (FAFSA or WASFA) as early as possible to ensure maximum consideration.

Application Procedures

To be considered for a Washington College Grant, students must:

- File a FAFSA or the WASFA by June 30th of the current year; and
- Complete verification, if selected.
- Complete Washington Residency Form and supply the requested supporting documentation

Selection Criteria

To qualify for a Washington College Grant, students must:

- Meet all eligibility requirements to receive state financial aid;
- Demonstrate financial need;
- Be a resident of the state of Washington for at least one year prior to starting attendance at an eligible Washington institution

Award Amounts

- Up to $8,517 per academic year
- Amounts vary depending on the Median Family Income of the student’s family and enrollment status

Criteria for Renewal

To be eligible for renewal, students must:

- File a FAFSA or WASFA in a subsequent aid year;
- Continue to meet all other eligibility requirements; and
- Meet all components of the Washington State Satisfactory Academic Progress policy each term

Students can receive up to 10 semesters of Washington College Grant.
WASHINGTON COLLEGE BOUND SCHOLARSHIP

The Washington College Bound Scholarship (WCBS) is based on financial need as determined by completion of the FAFSA, Renewal FAFSA application, or Washington State Financial Aid Application (WASFA). Funding is limited and Washington residents should complete an application (FAFSA or WASFA) as early as possible to ensure maximum consideration.

Application Procedures

To be considered for a Washington College Bound Scholarship, students must:
- Have applied for WCBS by June 30 of their 9th grade year
- Take the WCBS pledge to confirm that they meet eligibility requirements
- File a FAFSA or the WASFA by June 30th of the current year; and
- Complete verification, if selected.
- Complete Washington Residency Form and supply the requested supporting documentation

Selection Criteria

To qualify for a Washington College Bound Scholarship, students must:
- Attend an eligible college and start attending within one year of high school graduation
- Meet all eligibility requirements to receive state financial aid;
- Demonstrate financial need;
- Be a resident of the state of Washington for at least one year prior to starting attendance at an eligible Washington institution or have DACA status

Award Amounts

- Up to $6,794 per academic year
- Amounts vary depending on the Median Family Income of the student’s family and enrollment status

Criteria for Renewal

To be eligible for renewal, students must:
- File a FAFSA or WASFA in a subsequent aid year;
- Continue to meet all other eligibility requirements; and
- Meet all components of the Washington State Satisfactory Academic Progress policy each term

Students can receive up to 8 semesters of Washington College Bound Scholarship.

Loans

An educational loan is a form of financial aid that must be repaid, with interest. Education loans come in three major categories: student loans (e.g. Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized, and Direct Graduate PLUS loans), parent loans (e.g. Direct Parent PLUS loans) and private loans (also called alternative loans). For more information on applying for loans, go to https://www.digipen.edu/admissions/financial-aid/types-of-financial-aid/loans.
DIRECT SUBSIDIZED STUDENT LOAN

Direct Subsidized loans are need-based and the U.S. Department of Education pays the interest while you are enrolled in school at least half time. Borrowers may receive the interest subsidy for up to 150% of the published length of their program (6 years for most students at DigiPen Institute of Technology; varies by program and student type). Payments are automatically deferred while you are in school at least half time. The interest rate for loans first disbursed after July 1, 2021, is fixed at TBD. The origination fee for loans first disbursed after October 1, 2020, is 1.057%. The origination fee for loans first disbursed after October 1, 2020, is TBD. Interest rates and origination fees are subject to change. The grace period is the time immediately following a student's enrollment and before the repayment period during which loan payments are not required. The grace period is only given once over the lifetime of the loan. Federal Subsidized Direct loans have a six-month grace period after graduation and standard 10-year repayment terms. Please be aware that this loan is submitted to the Department of Education’s National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS), and is accessible by guaranty agencies, lenders, and schools.

Application Procedures

To be considered for a Direct Subsidized Student Loan, students must:

- File a FAFSA;
- Complete verification, if selected;
- Accept the loan in Self-Service;
- Complete Loan Entrance Counseling16 (first time borrowers only); and
- Sign a Master Promissory Note (first time borrowers only).

Selection Criteria

To qualify for a Direct Subsidized Student Loan, students must:

- Meet all eligibility requirements to receive Title IV Aid;
- Be an undergraduate student enrolled at least half time (6 credits);
- Demonstrate financial need;
- Not have exceeded his/her aggregate loan limits; and
- Not have received Direct Subsidized Loans for more than 150% of the published length of the student’s program of study (applies to new borrowers as of July 1, 2013).

Award Amounts

- Award amounts vary by dependency status, level, and enrollment. See the chart below for award amounts and aggregate limits.

Criteria for Renewal

To be eligible for renewal, students must:

- File a FAFSA in a subsequent aid year and continue to meet all eligibility requirements; and
- Meet all components of the Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress policy each term.

16 Loan Exit Counseling is required when a student borrower has dropped below half-time enrollment, withdraws, or graduates, even if the student plans to return to DigiPen or attend another university.
Interest Accrual

- While attending school at half-time status or greater the interest on the Subsidized Direct loan does not accrue. Interest begins to accrue at the expiration of the grace period.
- After the grace period is over the student enters repayment and interest begins to accrue. During repayment interest accrues and any unpaid interest may be capitalized in some circumstances.
- Capitalized Interest- Interest capitalization occurs when unpaid interest is added to the principal amount of your student loan. When the interest on your federal student loan is not paid as it accrues, your lender/servicer may capitalize the unpaid interest. This increases the outstanding principal amount due on the loan. Interest is then charged on that higher principal balance, increasing the overall cost of the loan (since interest will now be charged on the higher principal amount).
- Unpaid interest is generally capitalized following periods of:
  - deferment on an unsubsidized loan and/or
  - forbearance on any types of loans find out more about the differences between deferment and forbearance
  - following the grace period on an unsubsidized loan;
  - if you voluntarily leave the Revised Pay as You Earn, Pay as You Earn (PAYE) or Income-Based Repayment (IBR) plans (learn more about income-driven repayment);
  - if you fail to annually update your income for some of the income-driven plans (learn about recertifying your income); or
  - if you are repaying your loans under the PAYE or IBR plans and no longer qualify to make payments based on income

DIRECT UNSUBSIDIZED STUDENT LOAN

Direct Unsubsidized loans are non-need-based and the borrower is responsible for the interest while he or she is in school. Payments are automatically deferred while you are in school at least half time. The interest rate for loans for undergraduate students first disbursed after July 1, 2021, is fixed at TBD. The interest rate for loans for graduate students first disbursed after July 1, 2021, is fixed at TBD. The origination fee for loans first disbursed after October 1, 2020, is 1.057%. Interest rates and origination fees are subject to change. The grace period is the time immediately following a student's enrollment and before the repayment period during which loan payments are not required. The grace period is only given once over the lifetime of the loan. Federal Unsubsidized Direct loans have a six-month grace period after graduation and standard 10-year repayment terms. Please be aware that this loan is submitted to the Department of Education’s National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS), and is accessible by guaranty agencies, lenders, and schools.

Application Procedures

To be considered for a Direct Unsubsidized Student Loan, students must:

- File a FAFSA;
- Complete verification, if selected;
- Accept the loan in Self-Service;
• Complete *Loan Entrance Counseling* \(^{17}\) (first time borrowers only); and
• Sign a *Master Promissory Note* (first time borrowers only).

**Selection Criteria**

To qualify for a Direct Unsubsidized Student Loan, students must:

• Meet all eligibility requirements to receive Title IV Aid;
• Be an undergraduate or graduate student enrolled at least half time (6 credits undergraduate; 5 credits graduate); and
• Not have exceeded his/her aggregate loan limits.

**Award Amounts**

• Award amounts vary by dependency status and enrollment level. See the chart below for award amounts and aggregate limits.

**Criteria for Renewal**

To be eligible for renewal, students must:

• File a FAFSA in a subsequent aid year and continue to meet all eligibility requirements; and
• Meet all components of the *Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress* policy each term.

**Interest Accrual**

Interest begins to accrue for Unsubsidized Direct Loans at the time of disbursement and continues to accrue continuously over the life of the loan regardless of the student's enrollment or repayment status:

• Even though loan payments are not due until the expiration of the grace period, accrued interest that is left unpaid may capitalize is some circumstances.
• Capitalized Interest- Interest capitalization occurs when unpaid interest is added to the principal amount of your student loan. When the interest on your federal student loan is not paid as it accrues, your lender/servicer may capitalize the unpaid interest. This increases the outstanding principal amount due on the loan. Interest is then charged on that higher principal balance, increasing the overall cost of the loan (since interest will now be charged on the higher principal amount).
• Unpaid interest is generally capitalized following periods of:
  • following the grace period on an unsubsidized loan;
  • deferment or forbearance;
  • if you voluntarily leave the Revised Pay as You Earn, Pay as You Earn (PAYE) or Income-Based Repayment (IBR) plans (learn more about income-driven repayment);
  • if you fail to annually update your income for some of the income-driven plans (learn about recertifying your income); or
  • if you are repaying your loans under the PAYE or IBR plans and no longer qualify to make payments based on income.

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\(^{17}\) Loan Exit Counseling is required when a student borrower has dropped below half-time enrollment, withdraws, or graduates, even if the student plans to return to DigiPen or attend another university.
DIRECT STUDENT LOAN ANNUAL AND AGGREGATE LIMITS (excluding accrued and capitalized interest)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEPENDENT</th>
<th>ANNUAL LOAN LIMIT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freshmen (0-29 credits)</td>
<td>$5,500 (up to $3,500 can be subsidized)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophomore (30-59 credits)</td>
<td>$6,500 (up to $4,500 can be subsidized)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior (60-89 credits)</td>
<td>$7,500 (up to $5,500 can be subsidized)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior (90+ credits)</td>
<td>$7,500 (up to $5,500 can be subsidized)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDEPENDENT(^{18})</th>
<th>ANNUAL LOAN LIMIT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freshmen (0-29 credits)</td>
<td>$9,500 (up to $3,500 can be subsidized)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophomore (30-59 credits)</td>
<td>$10,500 (up to $4,500 can be subsidized)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior (60-89 credits)</td>
<td>$12,500 (up to $5,500 can be subsidized)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior (90+ credits)</td>
<td>$12,500 (up to $5,500 can be subsidized)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL</th>
<th>ANNUAL LOAN LIMIT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any year</td>
<td>$20,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIFETIME AGGREGATE LIMITS</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate (dependent)</td>
<td>$31,000 (up to $23,000 can be subsidized)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate (independent)</td>
<td>$57,500 (up to $23,000 can be subsidized)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate or Professional(^{19})</td>
<td>$138,500 (up to $65,500 can be subsidized)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DIRECT GRADUATE PLUS LOAN**

Direct Graduate PLUS loans are non-need-based and the borrower is responsible for the interest while in school. Payments begin when the loan is disbursed but may be deferred while the student is in school at least half time. The interest rate for loans first disbursed after July 1, 2020, is fixed at TBD. The origination fee for loans first disbursed after October 1, 2020, is 4.228%. The origination fee for loans first disbursed after October 1, 2021, is TBD. Interest rates and origination fees are subject to change. Graduate PLUS Loans have no official grace period; however, Graduate PLUS loans are placed on an automatic deferment while in school and for six months after graduating, leaving school, or dropping below half-time enrollment. Federal student loans have a standard 10-year repayment terms. Please be aware that this loan is submitted to the Department of Education’s National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS), and is accessible by guaranty agencies, lenders, and schools.

\(^{18}\) Independent loan limits also apply to undergraduate students whose parents are unable to borrow through the PLUS program because of a credit denial.

\(^{19}\) Aggregate loan limits for graduate students include loans received for undergraduate course work.
Application Procedures

To be considered for a Direct Graduate PLUS Loan, students must:

- File a FAFSA;
- Accept the loan in Self-Service;
- Complete a **Graduate PLUS Loan Application**, which includes a credit check;
- Complete **Loan Entrance Counseling**\(^{20}\) (first time borrowers only); and
- Sign a **Master Promissory Note** (first time borrowers only).

Selection Criteria

To qualify for a Direct Graduate PLUS Loan, students must:

- Meet all eligibility requirements to receive Title IV Aid;
- Be a graduate student enrolled at least half time (5 credits); and
- Meet the credit requirements.

Award Amounts

- Up to the full cost of attendance, less other financial aid, including other loans

Criteria for Renewal

To be eligible for renewal, students must:

- File a FAFSA in a subsequent aid year and continue to meet all other eligibility requirements;
- Complete a Graduate PLUS Loan Application, which includes a credit check; and
- Meet all components of the **Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress** policy each term.

Interest Accrual

Interest begins to accrue for Graduate PLUS Loans at the time of disbursement and continues to accrue continuously over the life of the loan regardless of the student's enrollment or repayment status:

- Accrued interest that is left unpaid may capitalize in some circumstances.
- Capitalized Interest- Interest capitalization occurs when unpaid interest is added to the principal amount of your student loan. When the interest on your federal student loan is not paid as it accrues, your lender/servicer may capitalize the unpaid interest. This increases the outstanding principal amount due on the loan. Interest is then charged on that higher principal balance, increasing the overall cost of the loan (since interest will now be charged on the higher principal amount).
- Unpaid interest is generally capitalized following periods of:
  - deferment or forbearance
  - if you voluntarily leave the Revised Pay as You Earn, Pay as You Earn (PAYE) or Income-Based Repayment (IBR) plans (learn more about income-driven repayment);
  - if you fail to annually update your income for some of the income-driven plans (learn about recertifying your income); or
  - if you are repaying your loans under the PAYE or IBR plans and no longer qualify to make payments based on income

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\(^{20}\) Loan Exit Counseling is required when a student borrower has dropped below half-time enrollment, withdraws, or graduates, even if the student plans to return to DigiPen or attend another DigiPen.
DIRECT PARENT PLUS LOAN

Direct Parent PLUS loans are non-need-based and the borrower is responsible for the interest while his or her student beneficiary is in school. Payments begin when the loan is fully disbursed but may be deferred while the student beneficiary is in school at least half time. The interest rate for loans first disbursed after July 1, 2021, is fixed at TBD. The origination fee for loans first disbursed after October 1, 2020, is 4.228%. The origination fee for loans first disbursed after October 1, 2021, is TBD. Interest rates and origination fees are subject to change. Please be aware that this loan is submitted to the Department of Education’s National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS), and is accessible by guaranty agencies, lenders, and schools.

Application Procedures

To be considered for a Direct Parent PLUS Loan, students must:

- File a FAFSA; and
- Accept the loan in Self-Service

To be considered for a Direct Parent PLUS Loan, parents must:

- Complete a Parent PLUS Loan Application, which includes a credit check; and
- Sign a Master Promissory Note.

Selection Criteria

To qualify for a Direct Parent PLUS Loan, parents must:

- Meet all eligibility requirements to receive Title IV Aid;
- Be the parent (biological, step, or adoptive) of an undergraduate student enrolled at least half time (6 credits); and
- Meet the credit requirements.

Award Amounts

- Up to the full cost of attendance, less other financial aid, including other loans

Criteria for Renewal

To be eligible for renewal, students must:

- File a FAFSA in a subsequent aid year and continue to meet all other eligibility requirements;
- Complete a Parent PLUS Loan Application, which includes a credit check; and
- Meet all components of the Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress policy each term.

Interest Accrual

- Interest begins to accrue for PLUS Loans at the time of disbursement and continues to accrue continuously over the life of the loan regardless of the beneficiary student’s enrollment or repayment status:
- Accrued interest that is left unpaid may capitalize is some circumstances.
- Capitalized Interest- Interest capitalization occurs when unpaid interest is added to the principal amount of your student loan. When the interest on your federal student loan is not paid as it accrues, your lender/servicer may capitalize the unpaid interest. This increases the outstanding principal amount due on the loan. Interest is then charged on that higher principal balance,
increasing the overall cost of the loan (since interest will now be charged on the higher principal amount).

- Unpaid interest is generally capitalized following periods of:
  - deferment or forbearance
  - if you voluntarily leave the Revised Pay as You Earn, Pay as You Earn (PAYE) or Income-Based Repayment (IBR) plans (learn more about income-driven repayment);
  - if you fail to annually update your income for some of the income-driven plans (learn about recertifying your income); or
  - if you are repaying your loans under the PAYE or IBR plans and no longer qualify to make payments based on income.

PRIVATE EDUCATION LOANS

Private Education Loans, also known as Alternative Education Loans, help bridge the gap between the actual cost of your education and Federal loan limits. Eligibility for private student loans often depends on your credit score and usually requires a co-signer. More information can be found on the financial aid website at https://www.digipen.edu/admissions/financial-aid/types-of-financial-aid/loans.

Application procedures and qualification criteria vary by lender. The private loan process from applying for the loan to funds arriving at DigiPen may take several weeks. Students should start the process early to ensure funds are available at the start of each semester. We encourage students to consider Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized loans first, as they generally have lower fixed interest rates and more flexible repayment options. Additionally, federal student loans offer deferment options and income-based repayment plans.

DIRECT TO CONSUMER LOANS (DTC LOAN)

Direct to consumer loans are education loans that are sent directly to the student and/or parent. We strongly advise against this type of loan. You are required to inform the Office of Financial Aid if you have received this type of loan as it must be included in your overall aid package. Securing a DTC loan without consulting with the Office of Financial Aid could jeopardize other aid in your award package, including scholarships, grants, and loans with better terms.

Federal Work-Study/Student Employment

Student employment provides students with the opportunity to work while enrolled in classes. Federal Work-Study (FWS) funds are limited and are awarded based on need. However, a FWS award is not required to work on campus. Student employment earnings cannot be directly applied to student account charges. Instead, students will receive a paycheck according to the hours worked submitted via an electronic timesheet; these funds should not be included in your calculations for covering billable charges. Students are responsible for applying and interviewing for student employment jobs.

Federal Work-Study Application Procedures

To be considered for Federal Work-Study, students must:

- File a FAFSA; and
- Complete verification, if selected.
Selection Criteria

To qualify for Federal Work-Study, students must:

- Meet all eligibility requirements to receive Title IV Aid;
- Be an undergraduate or graduate student enrolled at least half time (6 credits undergraduate; 5 credits graduate); and
- Demonstrate financial need.

Award Amounts

- Award amounts vary and are subject to available funds.

Criteria for Renewal

To be eligible for renewal, students must:

- File a FAFSA in a subsequent aid year;
- Continue to demonstrate financial need;
- Meet all components of the Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress policy each term; and
- Continue to meet all other eligibility requirements.

ON-CAMPUS JOBS

There are many types of jobs available to students who choose to work on campus. DigiPen pays student employees at least Washington state minimum wage.
Code of Conduct for Our Financial Aid Staff

An institutional financial aid professional is expected to always maintain exemplary standards of professional conduct in all aspects of carrying out his or her responsibilities, specifically including all dealings with any entities involved in any manner in student financial aid, regardless of whether such entities are involved in a government sponsored, subsidized, or regulated activity. In doing so, a financial aid professional should:

1. Refrain from taking any action for his or her personal benefit.
2. Refrain from taking any action he or she believes is contrary to law, regulation, or the best interests of the students and parents he or she serves.
3. Ensure that the information he or she provides is accurate, unbiased, and does not reflect any preference arising from actual or potential personal gain.
4. Be objective in making decisions and advising his or her institution regarding relationships with any entity involved in any aspect of student financial aid.
5. Refrain from soliciting or accepting anything of other than nominal value from any entity (other than an institution of higher education or a governmental entity such as the U.S. Department of Education) involved in the making, holding, consolidating or processing of any student loans, including anything of value (including reimbursement of expenses) for serving on an advisory body or as part of a training activity of or sponsored by any such entity.
6. Disclose to his or her institution, in such manner as his or her institution may prescribe, any involvement with or interest in any entity involved in any aspect of student financial aid.
7. Refrain from directing borrowers to particular lenders, or refusing or delaying loan certifications.
8. Refrain from offering funds for private loans.
9. Refrain from participating in contracting arrangements providing financial benefit from any lender or affiliate of a lender.
10. Refrain from having a call center or providing financial aid staffing assistance. Refrain from having any type of consulting arrangement or contract to provide services to or on behalf of a lender relating to education loans; and
11. Refrain from receiving compensation for service on an advisory board, commission, or group established by lenders or guarantors, except for reimbursement for reasonable expenses.
12. Refrain from receiving gifts from a lender, guaranty agency, or loan servicer.
13. Ban on revenue-sharing arrangements with any lender,
14. Ban on steering borrowers to particular lenders or delaying loan certifications, and
15. Ban on offers of funds for private loans to students in exchange for providing concessions or promises to the lender for a specific number of FSA loans, a specified loan volume, or a preferred lender arrangement.
Communication with Students

All correspondence from the Office of Financial Aid will be sent to the student. If the parent or spouse of a student wants to receive information about a student’s financial aid package, it is the student’s responsibility to forward that information to the appropriate party.

For new students who do not have access to the DigiPen network and a DigiPen e-mail account, the office communicates via the email listed on the FAFSA (when available) or provided on the admissions application. For students who have network access and a DigiPen e-mail account, the office communicates via e-mail notifications and Self-Service. It is important for students to check their DigiPen e-mail account and Self-Service regularly—even over breaks—to be sure they receive correspondence from the Office of Financial Aid.

All paper letters will be mailed to the permanent address in DigiPen’s database for the student. It is important for you to update your address with the Registrar’s Office to ensure correspondence is sent to the correct address.

FERPA

The Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) limits the information DigiPen can release without the student’s permission. The student is the only person we can discuss financial information with unless we are given written authorization to speak to a specific person (for example, a parent or spouse). If you would like the Office of Financial Aid to be able to speak with another individual regarding your file, please set up a FERPA release in Self-Service. Setting up FERPA release will give your parent, legal guardian, spouse, coach, etc. the ability to call and gain specific information regarding your student account.
Important Deadlines

DigiPen Institute of Technology has a priority filing deadline for scholarship and aid consideration. For maximum possible consideration, we must receive the FAFSA by February 1st each year. File early to meet the priority deadline. If you miss the February 1st priority filing deadline you will still be considered for financial aid. However, some types of aid have limited funds that are depleted after the first priority group is awarded.

2021-2022 Financial Aid Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACADEMIC YEAR DATES + DEADLINES</th>
<th>2021-2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FAFSA</strong> available for coming aid year. Complete the FAFSA as early in October as possible for maximum consideration.</td>
<td>October 1, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DigiPen Scholarship Applications open for the next academic year</td>
<td>October 1, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Priority FAFSA receipt deadline</strong>. FAFSA must be received by the Office of Financial Aid for maximum consideration. You may still complete a FAFSA after this date and be considered for aid, however, your aid maybe delayed.</td>
<td>February 1, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority deadline for DigiPen Bridge Scholarship Application. Scholarships are awarded on a first-come-first-serve basis.</td>
<td>February 1, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline for <strong>DigiPen Continuing Student Scholarships</strong> each calendar year. Scholarship applications are reviewed on a first-come-first-served basis.</td>
<td>April 1, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority deadline for <strong>all students</strong> to complete loan application processes for most loans (Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized, PLUS, Grad PLUS, and Alternative loans) for fall semester.</td>
<td>July 1, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority deadline for <strong>all students</strong> to submit additional information, verification materials (if selected) and any other forms the Office of Financial Aid has requested for students attending Fall/Spring semester.</td>
<td>July 1, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall semester starts.</td>
<td>August 30, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACADEMIC YEAR DATES + DEADLINES</td>
<td>2021-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall undergraduate and graduate census date.</td>
<td>September 13, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Final deadline</strong> to submit loan applications (Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized, PLUS, Grad PLUS, and Alternative loans) and/or changes for <strong>fall semester</strong>. Applications and/or changes submitted after this date may not be processed.</td>
<td>November 25, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Priority deadline</strong> for completing loan application processes (Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized, PLUS, Grad PLUS, and Alternative loans) for <strong>spring semester</strong>.</td>
<td>November 25, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Final deadline</strong> to submit verification documents for students who will no longer be enrolled after the <strong>fall semester</strong>. Verification documents received after this date may not be processed.</td>
<td>November 25, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Day of <strong>Spring Semester</strong>.</td>
<td>January 3, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring undergraduate and graduate census date.</td>
<td>January 18, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline to submit a complete a <strong>Professional Judgement request</strong> for consideration this academic year. Paperwork submitted after this date may not be processed.</td>
<td>March 1, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Final deadline</strong> to submit loan applications (Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized, PLUS, Grad PLUS, and Alternative loans) and/or changes for <strong>spring semester</strong>. Applications and/or changes submitted after this date may not be processed.</td>
<td>April 3, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Final deadline</strong> to submit verification documents for this academic year. Verification documents received after this date may not be processed.</td>
<td>April 3, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUMMER DATES + DEADLINES</td>
<td>2021-2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FAFSA</strong> available for summer. Complete the FAFSA as early in October as possible for maximum aid consideration.</td>
<td>October 1, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Priority FAFSA receipt deadline.</strong> FAFSA must be received by the Office of Financial Aid for maximum consideration. You may still complete a FAFSA after this date and be considered for aid, however, your aid maybe delayed.</td>
<td>February 1, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Priority deadline</strong> for completing loan application processes (Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized, PLUS, Grad PLUS, and Alternative loans) for summer semester.</td>
<td>April 6, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Priority deadline</strong> for submitting additional information, verification materials (if selected) and any other forms the Office of Financial Aid has requested for students attending summer classes.</td>
<td>April 6, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First day of Summer Semester.</td>
<td>May 2, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer undergraduate and graduate census date.</td>
<td>May 16, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline to receive completed verification documents or process loans for summer semester.</td>
<td>June 26, 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Processing Time**

It takes two to four weeks to process your financial aid application. The timeline for processing applications can be faster or slower depending on the time of year. If a fully completed FAFSA is received by February 1st, new students should receive an award offer prior to the May 1st decision deadline for new students. Aid applications received after February 1st are not guaranteed to be processed prior to the May 1st decision deadline.

The Office of Financial Aid will attempt to process as many applications as possible to assist students in receiving their financial aid prior to the beginning of any academic semester, but cannot guarantee when funds will be received. If financial aid funds of any kind have not been received and credited to a student’s account for any reason, resulting in a student’s account not being paid in full, the student must work with the Accounting Office to determine available options to avoid being assessed a late fee for non-payment.
Paying Your Bill

The Accounting Office sends bills based on the following approximate timeframe:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEMESTER</th>
<th>BILLS MAILED</th>
<th>PAYMENT DUE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Upon Approval of Registration by Registrar’s Office</td>
<td>August 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Upon Approval of Registration by Registrar’s Office</td>
<td>December 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Upon Approval of Registration by Registrar’s Office</td>
<td>April 15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Financial Aid Disbursements

Financial aid is disbursed directly to your Student Account. If all required paperwork is submitted and processed by the published deadlines, financial aid is disbursed based on the schedule below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPES OF AID</th>
<th>DISBURSEMENT DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Scholarships/Waivers</td>
<td>Tuition Due Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Grants</td>
<td>First day of classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Grants</td>
<td>At census day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Direct Loans</td>
<td>First day of classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Aid</td>
<td>As funds are received</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Funds unavailable for disbursement on these dates are disbursed on a rolling basis as they become available or as the student meets the requirements for the funds. Financial aid proceeds go to pay the balance on your student account first. Any excess proceeds are issued in a credit balance refund.

Credit Balance Refunds

If your financial aid exceeds the charges on your student account, you may receive a credit balance refund. Credit balance refunds will not be issued before your first day of classes. Additional information can be found on the Accounting Website.
Satisfactory Academic Progress

Federal regulations require that students make Satisfactory Academic Progress toward completing their degree to receive federal financial aid. This policy defines Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), the process by which financial aid is revoked for failure to make SAP, and the process by which students may appeal SAP decisions. This policy applies to all students at DigiPen Institute of Technology.

What is Satisfactory Academic Progress?

DigiPen Institute of Technology is required to monitor the academic progress of all students. This is to ensure that students are making progress toward a degree. To make SAP, students must:

1. Meet a minimum GPA requirement, AND
2. After each term, satisfactorily complete a minimum percentage of credits toward degree completion, i.e., the student must meet minimum pace requirements, AND
3. Complete their degree programs within the maximum timeframe. Maximum timeframe standards are set by pace requirements. Students must complete the necessary number of credits attempted to remain on pace to graduate within the maximum timeframe.

If a student fails to meet any one of these standards, he or she will be classified as not making Satisfactory Academic Progress.

What are the Minimum Requirements to Maintain SAP?

All students are required to maintain the following minimum standards.

**GPA REQUIREMENTS – UNDERGRADUATE**

Undergraduate students are expected to maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA. All students should be aware that some scholarships and grants may require recipients to maintain a specific GPA to remain eligible, which may be higher than the SAP standard.

**GPA REQUIREMENTS – GRADUATE**

Graduate students are expected to maintain a minimum of a 3.0 cumulative GPA. Any graduate student failing to maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA will be classified as not making SAP.

All students should be aware that some scholarships and grants may require recipients to maintain a specific GPA to remain eligible for that particular funding, which may be higher than the SAP standard.

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21 GPA will be calculated according to the process described in DigiPen Institute of Technology Course Catalog. An undergraduate student taking all Pass/No Pass courses in a semester will not receive a GPA for that semester. In order to meet the minimum GPA requirement, a student will be expected to pass all credits attempted in order to successfully meet SAP standards.
PACE REQUIREMENTS

Students must complete their degree within 150% of the maximum number of credits required for the degree as posted in the DigiPen Course Catalog. This maximum number of credits determines the pace at which a student must complete credits in order to graduate within the maximum time frame. Undergraduate students must satisfactorily complete 67% of the credits attempted. Graduate students must satisfactorily complete 50% of the credits attempted. Pace is determined by the following formula:

\[
\text{Pace} \% = \left( \frac{\text{Cumulative credits earned}}{\text{Cumulative credits attempted}} \right) \times 100
\]

Cumulative Credits Earned and Cumulative Credits Attempted include accepted transfer credits.

How Often is SAP Reviewed?

The Office of Financial Aid will review your progress at the end of each semester to determine whether you have met the minimum GPA, Pace, and maximum timeframe standards. Failure to meet all of these standards will result in warning or termination (described below).

What is Financial Aid Warning and When Does it Occur?

Financial aid warning is the result of a student either falling below the minimum cumulative GPA requirement, and/or failing to complete the minimum number of credits to remain on pace to graduate within the maximum time frame. While on financial aid warning, the student may still receive financial aid. Students on financial aid warning who successfully meet all SAP standards in the next semester of enrollment will be placed back in good standing.

What is Financial Aid Termination and When Does it Occur?

Financial aid termination occurs when a student who is currently on financial aid warning fails to meet the defined satisfactory progress requirements for a second consecutive semester. Financial aid is terminated, including all federal, state, and institutional aid.

Can a Student Appeal Financial Aid Termination?

Students placed on financial aid termination status have the right to appeal their status. The opportunity to appeal is available to those with extenuating circumstances. Extenuating circumstances are those events that are beyond the student’s control (i.e. serious injury, illness or mental health condition, death of an immediate family member, etc.).

To appeal financial aid termination a student must submit a written petition to the Financial Aid Appeal Committee. The petition should include:

1. A detailed description of the extenuating circumstance that includes:
- Documentation of circumstance
- The manner by which the deficiency will be resolved
- Signature and current contact information

2. An academic plan reviewed by your Student Success Advisor
3. Documentation supporting the basis for your appeal and steps you have taken to resolve your circumstances.

Appeals without supporting documentation will not be considered.

Financial Aid Probation

Students who were on federal financial aid warning in the prior term and who successfully appeal their financial aid termination to follow an academic plan are given the status of federal financial aid probation for their next term of enrollment. Students on federal financial aid probation may continue to receive federal financial aid for the federal financial aid probation term. If they successfully meet the requirements of their probation term, they will be placed back in good standing. If they do not successfully meet the terms of their probation term, then they will immediately go back to financial aid termination.

Regaining Eligibility

A student who was placed on Financial Aid Termination and chose not to appeal, or submitted an appeal and was denied will continue to be ineligible for aid until SAP is met. If the student has resolved SAP deficiencies, the Office of Financial Aid should be contacted to request a SAP evaluation to regain eligibility.
Withdrawals

A withdrawal occurs when a student decides to drop all of his or her classes and leave DigiPen, either temporarily or permanently. The withdrawal process begins with the Registrar’s Office; they will provide you with the appropriate paperwork or electronic process. There are some financial consequences to withdrawing outlined below. If you are unsure of how withdrawing from DigiPen will affect you financially, contact the Office of Financial Aid prior to withdrawing, when possible.

Definition of Withdrawal

**Official Withdrawal** – A withdrawal is considered official if the student completes all required withdrawal procedures. For purposes of the Return of Title IV Aid Formula, the withdrawal date for an official withdrawal will be the date of official notification of intent to withdraw or the last date of academically related activity for the semester.

**Unofficial Withdrawal** – A withdrawal is considered unofficial if the student quits attending or in any way participating in all courses before the end of the term and does not complete all required official withdrawal procedures. For purposes of the Return of Title IV Aid Formula, the withdrawal date for an unofficial withdrawal will be the 50% date of the semester.

**Withdrawal Due Unforeseen Circumstances** – If DigiPen determines that a student did not begin the withdrawal process or otherwise notify DigiPen of the intent to withdraw due to illness, accident, grievous personal loss, or other circumstances beyond the student’s control then an administrative withdrawal is processed. For purposes of the Return of Title IV Aid Formula, the withdrawal date for a withdrawal due to unforeseen circumstances is the date DigiPen determines is related to that circumstance.
Federal Return of Title IV Funds (R2T4) Policy

Financial aid funds are awarded to a student under the assumption that the student will attend DigiPen Institute of Technology for the entire term. If the student officially or unofficially withdraws from DigiPen during the term, the student and school are required to return the unearned part of the federal funds back to the Department of Education. The calculation used to determine the amount of earned and unearned aid is called the Return to Title IV (R2T4) calculation. Prior to completion of the R2T4 calculation DigiPen must have confirmation that the student began attendance in all enrolled courses for the term. Federal aid recipients who fail to commence attendance in their classes will have all federal funds returned to the Department of Education. Liability for return of Federal Title IV funds will be determined according to the following guidelines:

- All federal aid is considered earned if the student remains enrolled and remains in attendance through at least the 60% point of the term in which federal aid is received or could have been received.
- A pro-rated portion of the federal aid received must be returned according to the Return of Title IV Funds Formula if the student officially or unofficially withdraws from DigiPen before completing 60% of the term.

If a student did not receive all of the funds that they earned prior to withdrawal, the student may be due a post-withdrawal disbursement. If the post-withdrawal disbursement includes loan funds, the school must get the student’s permission prior to disbursement. The student can choose to decline these loan funds to reduce unnecessary debt. The school may automatically use part or all of the post-withdrawal disbursement of grant funds to pay tuition, fees. The school needs the student’s permission to use post-withdrawal disbursement funds to pay any other school charges.

Some Title IV funds that were scheduled for disbursement may not be available as a post-withdrawal disbursement because of other eligibility requirements. The requirements for Title IV program funds are separate from the institution’s refund policy. The student may still owe funds to DigiPen to cover unpaid institutional charges.

Title IV funds have to be returned within 45 days of date of determination that a student withdrew. DigiPen Institute of Technology will return Title IV funds in the following order:

1. Unsubsidized Direct Student loans
2. Subsidized Direct Student loans
3. Direct PLUS loans
4. Federal Pell Grants
5. Federal SEOG
6. Federal TEACH Grants
7. Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant

Return of State Financial Aid

State grant recipients who fail to commence attendance in their classes, or who receive funds based on fraudulent information, must repay 100% of the Washington College Grant (WCG) and College Bound Scholarship (CBS) received. If a student has commenced attendance in a term, they will not owe a repayment on the state aid that they receive, but will be subject to state aid SAP.
Return of Institutional Financial Aid

All institutional aid is considered earned if the student remains enrolled and attends at least one class through the 60% point of the semester. If the student does not complete 60% of the semester in at least one class, institutional aid is subject to return at the same rate as calculated in the Return of Title IV aid.

Return of Funding from Outside Sources

When a student who has received funding from an outside source (such as a scholarship organization) withdraws from DigiPen, return of those funds is subject to the guidelines of the organization. In some cases, all outside funds may need to be returned to the organization.

Return of Funding from Private Loans

When a student who has received funding from a private loan withdraws from DigiPen, DigiPen Institute of Technology will return any private loan funding not required to pay remaining institutional charges after all other adjustments have been made.
Institutional Refund Policy

Refunds are calculated from the date the Registrar’s Office receives a completed withdrawal application. You need to complete the appropriate paperwork by the deadlines specified to be eligible for a refund. The institutional refund policy applies if you are doing a full withdrawal only. If you are doing a partial withdrawal, contact the Accounting Office for further information. For the 2021-2022 academic year, the refund policy is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEMESTER</th>
<th>100% REFUND</th>
<th>50% REFUND</th>
<th>NOT REFUND ELIGIBLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2021</td>
<td>09/9/2021</td>
<td>09/28/2021</td>
<td>After 09/28/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2022</td>
<td>01/13/2022</td>
<td>02/01/2022</td>
<td>After 02/01/2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer 2022</td>
<td>05/12/2022</td>
<td>05/31/2022</td>
<td>After 05/31/2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Except for the registration fee, all other assessed fees are refunded on the same schedule as tuition payments.

Special Programs/Populations

The Office of Financial Aid manages several special assistance programs. The Office of Financial Aid does not select recipients but does process awarded funds for these programs.

VA Tuition Benefits

Institutional scholarships may be reevaluated for students receiving VA tuition benefits. For more information on how VA Tuition Benefits may affect your financial aid, contact the Veteran’s Certifying Official at veteranbenefits@digipen.edu.

Please refer to DigiPen Institute of Technology VA Benefits Handbook with further questions.
Policies and Disclosures

As required by the Higher Education Opportunity Act – 2008, DigiPen Institute of Technology provides a variety of information to the campus community and prospective students. Links to these policies and reports and to the offices that provide them can be found on the financial aid website, digipen.edu/financial-aid. Print copies can be requested from the offices listed on the website.