

## Financial Aid for Summer Session

The Summer Session starts with May Term and includes all sessions through August, and marks the *end* of the University of Maine's financial aid year. The amount and type of financial aid available to you will depend on what financial aid you have already received during the previous fall and spring semesters, as well as what your enrollment plans are for the summer. Generally, you must enroll at least half-time during the summer in order to have any eligibility, which is why ***financial aid for summer is processed after you have registered for classes***. Most types of aid will be processed only upon your request; refer to the back of this flyer for details.

### Financial Aid Programs for Summer

There are fewer types of financial aid available during the summer than during the standard academic year. Available aid programs include:

- **Federal Pell Grants (undergraduates only)**

If you are eligible for a Federal Pell Grant, and if you were not enrolled full-time during the previous fall and/or spring semesters, you may have some remaining Pell Grant eligibility. Some students may be eligible *even if enrolled less than half-time*.

- **Federal Stafford Loans**

The most common source of financial aid for students who require assistance while attending Summer Session is the Stafford Loan. Summer loans are processed separately from academic year loans. To be eligible you must enroll at least half-time. We can only recognize costs for the actual number of weeks you are enrolled.

- **Other Financial Aid**

If you received a scholarship, waiver or benefit during the fall and spring semesters, check with the source of that assistance to see if you could receive it for Summer Session. If so, you must notify us.

### How Many Classes Will You Take?

Most financial aid programs have certain requirements regarding the minimum number of credit hours you must take in order to be eligible. The definition of "full-time" or "half-time" during the Summer Session is typically the same as during any semester.

Your enrollment level is determined by your total number of credit hours for the entire summer, including May Term:

UNDERGRADUATE	
Credit Hours	Enrollment
12 or more	full-time
9 - 11	$\frac{3}{4}$ time
6 - 8	$\frac{1}{2}$ time
1 - 5	less than $\frac{1}{2}$

GRADUATE	
Credit Hours	Enrollment
1 or more	full-time

# Summer Financial Aid Checklist

## Apply for Federal Financial Aid

First of all, be sure to file the appropriate Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). For example, eligibility for the **Summer Session 2009 is based on information provided on the 2008-2009 FAFSA**. Your FAFSA must be received by the federal processing center no later than June 30, 2009.

## Register for Classes

Delays in registering for all of your classes will cause delays in the processing of your financial aid. For some sources of funding (for example: Stafford Loans) processing *will not* occur until you are registered at least half-time.

## Plan Ahead

A financial aid advisor can help you put together a plan at any time during the year. In fact, you may need to adjust your financial aid plans for the fall and spring semesters to ensure that you have some remaining eligibility for the summer. The best time to meet with an advisor for a specific estimate of your eligibility is in March, once you have registered for Summer Session. If you cannot register early, at least determine which classes you plan to take before meeting with a financial aid advisor for an estimate of your eligibility.

## Apply for Federal Stafford Loan

Your loan application should be turned in as early as possible. Processing of summer loan applications usually begins in mid-April. The processing of your loan application will be delayed further for any or all of the following reasons:

- if your enrollment is less than half-time
- if you are enrolled for fewer credit hours than you indicated when we estimated your loan eligibility
- if it appears that you will be advancing a grade level at the end of the spring semester, in which case we must wait until all of your spring grades are posted
- if your eligibility for any additional aid is still pending

## Let The Bursar's Office Know What Financial Aid You Expect to Receive

Payment of your bill for each class is due on the first day of each class. When you receive your bill in the mail, you will need to complete Anticipated Resources on your MaineStreet account. You are expected to pay the difference between your bill and your aid by the due date to avoid late fees.

## Beware of Enrollment Changes

Throughout the summer we will review your summer enrollment. The total number of summer course hours you are enrolled in will be compared against the original number of summer course hours (on which your summer budget and financial aid were based). If the number of enrolled hours is less than the original number of hours, your budget and aid will be adjusted accordingly and you could be required to return financial aid funds to the Bursar's Office. We recommend that you speak with an advisor if your summer enrollment plans change after your summer aid has been awarded.

## Are There Other Options?

If you are not eligible for any of the programs mentioned here, you may want to explore such alternatives as Federal PLUS Loans, Federal Additional Unsubsidized Stafford Loans (for independent students), or private education loans. Ask us for further details.

Academic Year (fall, spring, and summer) STAFFORD LOAN LIMITS			
Grade Level and Dependency	Credit Hours Earned	Maximum Subsidized Stafford	Maximum Stafford (subsidized and unsubsidized)
Dependent first-year	less than 24	\$3,500	\$5,500
Dependent sophomore	24-53	\$4,500	\$6,500
Dependent junior/senior	54 and above	\$5,500	\$7,500
Independent first-year	less than 24	\$3,500	\$9,500
Independent sophomore	24-53	\$4,500	\$10,500
Independent junior/senior	54 and above	\$5,500	\$12,500
Graduate student	any credit hours	\$8,500	\$20,500