



2009-2010 FINANCIAL AID FACTS

Office of Financial Aid: 217-581-6405

Fax: 217-581-6422

Financial Aid Website: www.eiu.edu/~finaid/

Panther Access Web Service (NEW PAWS): www.eiu.edu/paws/

What does it cost to attend EIU?

The 2009-2010 actual costs can be viewed on our website.

Effective fall 2004 EIU implemented a new %Guaranteed Tuition Plan+as set by the EIU Board of Trustees. This Plan provides for a constant tuition rate for four continuous academic years beginning with a student's first term. Continuing students and graduate students are not covered under the Guaranteed Tuition Plan.

All awards for undergraduate students will be calculated on an average of 15 on-campus hours using the "guaranteed" tuition rate.

All awards for graduate students will be calculated on an average of 14 on-campus hours.

Fees are not affected by the Guaranteed Tuition Plan. There is a textbook rental fee that covers rental of basic textbooks.

Your awards are based on an average number of hours as noted above. On the PAWS system under the Financial Aid section, you can view your awards and the number of hours we assume you will be enrolled each semester. YOU MUST NOTIFY OUR OFFICE WITH A CHANGE OF STATUS FORM IF THESE HOURS ARE NOT CORRECT. These forms are available in our office or on our web site. If you enroll in one or more classes offered through the School of Continuing Education, you must notify the Office of Financial Aid in writing.

How was my need determined?

Financial aid is simply defined as the difference between a student's cost of attendance (COA) and the family's ability to pay these costs, the expected family contribution (EFC). The EFC reflects the financial resources reported on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Your Student Aid Report (SAR) displays your EFC. If the EFC is less than the cost of attendance, the student is considered to have financial need. If the EFC is greater than the cost of attendance, non-need based aid may be offered. We attempt to meet financial need until all aid is exhausted. The COA includes average tuition and fees, estimated living expenses, transportation, personal items, books and supplies. The COA can be viewed on our web site. **FOR 2009-2010, ALL STUDENTS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR A FEDERAL DIRECT STUDENT LOAN WILL BE PACKAGED FOR THE LOAN, WHETHER OR NOT REQUESTED ON THE FAFSA. YOU HAVE THE OPTION OF REJECTING THE LOAN ON YOUR FINANCIAL AID AWARD LETTER.**

Important to Note: DO NOT update information on your FAFSA online or through the Federal Processor. Instead, submit a written statement along with signed, supporting documentation to the Office of Financial Aid.

Self-supporting students who reported dependents may receive a dependent care allowance if the information is provided to the Office of Financial Aid. Please notify the Office of Financial Aid in writing if you pay child care expenses because you are attending school. You must list the names and ages of your children for whom you pay child care and the monthly dollar amount of the child care that you pay.

What do I need to know about my awards?

Students who enroll in sponsored credit classes through the School of Continuing Education need to understand that most scholarships and waivers (including the ISAC MAP award) will not pay for sponsored credit classes. Waivers cannot be used for cost-recovery Continuing Education classes.

Type of awards: Grants, work, and loans are awarded in that order. Grants are awarded to high-need students and do not have to be repaid. Federal Perkins Loan and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) are awarded to high-need students who are early applicants. The State of Illinois (IL) Monetary Award Program (MAP) Grant will not cover full tuition and fees. For those who qualify for the IL-MAP or IL IIA Grant the award will show as %EST+or estimated, and will not be available until confirmation from the state is received.

Can my awards change if I am not full-time?

- 12 credit hours is considered full-time, but taking 15 credit hours each term as an undergraduate is the normal course load to graduate in four years.
- To receive the grant amounts offered, enroll for the number of hours indicated on the PAWS system.
- Federal Pell Grant will be prorated to 75% for 9 to 11 credit hours, 50% for 6 to 8 credit hours, and with most EFCs, 25% for less than 6 hours.
- ISAC MAP grants will be reduced if not enrolled in 15 hours.
- Federal Direct Loans and Federal Work-Study require enrollment in at least 6 credit hours per term.
- You must notify the Office of Financial Aid if you enroll in a course offered through the School of Continuing Education.

Changes to your awards and disbursement of your awards can be viewed on PAWS. Only your original Award Letter, changes to your expected family contribution, and new offers of aid requiring signatures will be mailed to you.

Undergraduate and graduate students must be accepted into a degree program in order for financial aid to be paid. Graduate students must be enrolled a minimum of six hours in courses that will be applied to their graduate program requirements to qualify for graduate loan limits.

What are the Conditions of my Awards?

By accepting the aid offered, signing and returning the award letter, you are agreeing to the conditions stated as follows:

- I understand I must complete loan counseling and sign a Master Promissory Note prior to the first disbursement of a Direct Loan, if I have not received a Federal Direct Loan since 2000-2001.
- I understand that aid can be canceled if I do not accept my awards within 20 days.
- I will repay any aid for which I become ineligible due to withdrawal, change in eligibility status, etc.
- I understand my aid can be adjusted due to changes affecting my cost of attendance, such as hours enrolled or residency.
- I understand I must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress. For a copy of the policy see the financial aid web site.

What if I receive another type of assistance not listed on the Award Letter?

It is your responsibility to notify the Office of Financial Aid **IN WRITING** of any awards that you receive that are not listed on your award letter. Failure to notify the office can result in repayment of financial aid already received.

Can my awards be changed?

You may request changes to loan or work by writing a statement at the bottom of your award letter. We will send you a revised award letter if appropriate. Your awards may be viewed on PAWS.

How is my financial aid disbursed?

This information is very important. Financial aid will not disburse to your student account until you are **ATTENDING AT LEAST 1 CLASS**. Federal Direct Student Loans will not disburse to your account until you are **ATTENDING AT LEAST 6 SEMESTER HOURS**.

All financial aid (except work programs), of which we have knowledge, will be reflected on the July billing. Be sure you read the billing statement carefully and contact the Student Accounts Office, 217/581-3715, if you have questions. You can also view billing information and amount owed EIU on PAWS under Student Accounts.

If not enrolled for the hours indicated on your Award Letter, you should report IN WRITING (*Change of Status Form* available in office or on our website) the change in hours to the Office of Financial Aid as soon as possible. IF THE HOURS USED TO CALCULATE YOUR FINANCIAL AID (15 HOURS FOR UNDERGRADUATES, 14 HOURS FOR GRADUATES) DO NOT MATCH THE HOURS ENROLLED, YOUR FINANCIAL AID WILL NOT DISBURSE. The number of hours used to calculate your eligibility appears on PAWS.

Aid will be disbursed at the start of each semester. If funds do disburse to your account, the Student Accounts office then issues a refund in five (5) days. If you have not made arrangements for refunds to be direct deposited into your bank account, refunds are mailed to your local address. **Make sure that your local address is correct on Paws or with the Records Office 217/581-3511.** Students will soon be able to

verify and update select addresses through PAWS. Please watch Student Notices for further updates.

What is a PLUS Loan? How much can a parent borrow under PLUS?

Parents who have an acceptable credit history can borrow a PLUS loan to pay the education expenses of a child who is a dependent student enrolled at least half time in an eligible program. The parent can borrow up to the student's cost of attendance minus any other financial aid received as stated at the bottom of your Financial Aid Award Letter. If you want more information or your parent wants to complete the PLUS Request Form, go to the Financial Aid website or contact the Loan Office at 217/581-3711.

What if I withdraw?

Contact the Registration Office at 217/581-3831 for complete instructions on withdrawing from the university. Withdrawal during the first 60% of the semester after receiving financial aid will result in termination of your financial aid eligibility and the repayment of any unearned financial aid. Go to our website for the complete financial aid policy on Return of Title IV Funds.

How do I find an on campus job?

Students not awarded Federal Work Study may still work a part-time job on campus through Regular Student Employment. University offices and departments hire students who are enrolled a minimum of six semester hours. Contact departments directly. The hourly rate and work schedule of the job will be determined by the employer. Employment opportunities are posted on a bulletin board in the Office of Financial Aid and also on our web site at: www.eiu.edu/~finaid/text/stuemp.htm. For more information, call 217/581-3712.

What is a Federal Perkins Loan?

Federal Perkins Loan is a long-term loan for students with exceptional financial need. For more information view our website.

What if my financial situation changes?

If your financial situation changes, contact our office in writing between **May 1 and Dec. 1** to see if your situation falls within our guidelines for any of the following:

- Separation/divorce/death of parent since filing
- Loss of employment or untaxed income
- Unusual medical expenses

Under appropriate circumstances and after May 1 you may submit your request to our office and have your situation reevaluated. **Deadline for requests is December 1.**

EIU Office of Financial Aid

Location: *East Wing, Student Services*

Phone numbers:

- *Award Letters* 217/581-6405
- *Loans* 217/581-3711
- *Employment* 217/581-3712
- *Aid Processing* 217/581-6405