



FINANCIAL AID FACTS

Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships: 217-581-6405

Fax: 217-581-6422

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

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

Cost to Attend Eastern Illinois University

The 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.

Types of Awards

Grants, work-study and loans are awarded in that order. Grants are awarded to high-need students and do not have to be repaid. Federal Perkins Loan (PERK), Federal Work-Study (FWS), Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Scholarship (SEDS), Access to Education Award (A2E1, A2E2), and Access to Education Work-Study (A2EWS) are awarded to high-need students who are early applicants. The State of Illinois Monetary Award Program (MAP) Grant will not cover full tuition and fees. For those who qualify for the Illinois MAP or the Illinois IIA Grant the award will show as "EST" or estimated, and will not be available until confirmation from the state is received.

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.

Need

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 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 website. **All students who are eligible for a Federal Direct Student Loan will be offered a loan, whether or not requested on the FAFSA. You have the option of rejecting the loan on PAWS.**

Enrollment

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 text book 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.**

Change in Hours – Change in Awards

- You must be enrolled full-time (12 credit hours per semester) to receive most types of financial aid. If you enroll less than full-time and/or your weeks of enrollment are less than 16 weeks each semester, your financial aid awards may be reduced or cancelled.
- Federal Pell Grant will be prorated to 75% for 9 to 11 credit hours, 50% for 6 to 8 hours, and with most EFCs, 25% for less than 6 hours.

- ISAC MAP grants will be reduced if not enrolled in 15 hours.
- You must be enrolled full-time (12 credit hours per semester) to receive Federal Perkins Loan (PERK), Federal Work-Study (FWS), Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Scholarship (SEDS), Access to Education Award (A2E1, A2E2), and Access to Education Work-Study (A2EWS). If you are not enrolled full-time, this aid will be cancelled for the year.
- Federal Direct Loans require enrollment in at least 6 credit hours per term.

Changes to your awards and disbursements of your awards can be viewed on PAWS. You may request changes to loans by writing a statement and submitting it to the Financial Aid Office. A revised Award Letter will be available on PAWS.

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

Census Date Policy

In accordance with federal regulations, the Office of Financial Aid will recalculate federal, state, and institutional student aid awards based on the enrollment status as of the published Census Date (Count Day) by the Office of the Registrar, which is typically the end of the 10th day of class for both Fall and Spring terms. (The Census Date for Summer enrollment will vary based on the length of the course(s) taken. Refer to the Academic Calendar for those dates.) Generally, this policy typically coincides with the end of the drop/add period for each semester. All federal, state, and institutional aid will be based upon the Census Date enrollment status. (State and institutional aid will NOT be adjusted upward or downward throughout the semester NOR will these types of aid be calculated based on Billed Hours.)

Conditions of Awards

By accepting the aid offered on PAWS, 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 2003-2004.
- I understand that aid can be canceled if I do not accept my awards within 20 days.
- I will repay my aid for which I become ineligible due to withdrawal, change in eligibility status, etc.
- I understand my financial aid awards are subject to adjustments or cancellations due to changes in laws, regulations, appropriations, changes in financial situation, verification, discovery of data errors, changes in enrollment status (hours or weeks, grade class), or changes in residency status, amongst others.
- I understand I must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress. For a copy of the policy see the Financial Aid Website.

Additional 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 which are not listed on your Award Letter. Failure to notify the office can result in repayment of financial aid already disbursed.

Disbursement

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-study), 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 any questions. You can view billing information and amount owed to EIU on PAWS under Student Accounts.

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.

Change in Financial Situation

If your financial situation changes, contact our office in writing between **May 1st and December 1st** to see if your situation falls within the guidelines for a Professional Judgment (re-evaluation of your file). **The deadline for requests is December 1st. 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.

Campus Employment

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. For more information please check the Student Employment website at www.eiu.edu/~finaid/employment.php, or call 217-581-3712.

Withdrawal

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.

**Eastern Illinois University, Office of Financial Aid, East Wing, Student Services Building
Award Letters - 217-581-6405 Loans - 217-581-3711 Employment - 217-581-3712 Aid Processing - 217-581-6405**