

Frequently Asked Questions for Undergraduate Students

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Answers:

► Applying for Financial Aid

What forms and documents do I need to submit to apply for financial aid at Notre Dame?

All students applying for financial aid are required to complete the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). In addition, parents and students must submit signed copies of federal income tax returns (including schedules), W-2 wage statements, and other documents as requested by the Office of Financial Aid.

What are the priority filing deadlines for Notre Dame financial aid applicants?

Freshmen applicants must complete the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by February 15.

Returning students must complete the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by April 25.

Transfer/Readmitted applicants must complete the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 31.

Does Notre Dame participate in the College Board IDOC service?

Notre Dame uses the College Board IDOC service for all undergraduate financial aid applicants. Applicants who complete the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE will receive an e-mail in early February from the College Board providing instructions on how to submit the required documents to the College Board. The priority deadline for submission of documents to IDOC is March 1 for freshmen and April 30 for returning students.

Do I need to reapply for financial aid each year?

Yes. All returning students must reapply for aid each year by submitting the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE and the Renewal FAFSA by April 25 and sending all required U.S. Federal tax returns and other requested documents to the College Board IDOC service.

What should we do if our federal tax returns will be delayed?

Complete both the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE by the priority filing deadline using estimated information. If applicable, send a copy of the tax extension form (Form 4868) directly to the Office of Financial Aid. As soon as they are completed for the appropriate tax filing year, submit a signed copy of the Federal Tax Returns directly to the College Board IDOC service.

If my parents are separated or divorced, do they both need to submit financial information?

Yes. Notre Dame's policy for determining financial need is based upon the principle that both parents have a responsibility to contribute to the cost of education. We therefore need financial information from both the custodial and the noncustodial parent. Upon completion of the CSS/PROFILE, freshmen applicants will receive an email from the College Board that is to be shared with the noncustodial parent. The email will

explain the requirement for the noncustodial parent to complete the CSS Noncustodial PROFILE application. Returning students may be asked to complete the Non-custodial Parent Statement available at: <http://financialaid.nd.edu/undergraduate/forms>.

► **Eligibility and Appealing**

What percent of Notre Dame students receive financial aid?

Over 45 percent of all undergraduates receive some form of gift aid from the University (excludes athletic aid and educational benefit programs). Approximately 75 percent of all undergraduate students receive some form of financial aid.

When can I expect to hear about my award?

The Office of Financial Aid begins mailing Financial Aid Award Letters in late March to admitted freshmen who meet the February 15 financial aid priority deadline for filing the FAFSA and PROFILE and who submit their IDOC packet to College Board by March 1.

The Office of Financial Aid begins mailing Financial Aid Award Letters in early June to admitted transfer/readmitted students who meet the March 31 priority deadline for filing the FAFSA and PROFILE and who submit their IDOC packet to College Board by April 30 (for enrollment in the fall).

The Office of Financial Aid begins mailing Financial Aid Award Letters in early May to returning students who meet the April 25 priority deadline for filing the FAFSA and PROFILE and who submit their IDOC packet to College Board by April 30. Returning students may view the status of their financial aid application and their award status through insideND.

Will I receive the same financial aid award for all four years?

The total dollar amount of financial aid awards is based on demonstrated financial need. Changes in family circumstances, such as an increase or decrease in parents' or student's income, assets, family size, number of family members attending college, may affect eligibility for financial aid. If the family's circumstances do not change significantly over the four years, the financial aid award should be comparable each year.

Is there a limit on the number of semesters or years that University Scholarship is available?

Based on the students' admitted class level, University Scholarship consideration is given for a maximum of eight semesters (ten semesters for Architecture Program and Combination Five-Year Engineering Program with the College of Arts and Letters). Students electing to remain at Notre Dame to pursue a second major, second degree or dual-degree program are not eligible for University Scholarships.

What do I do if my family's circumstances change?

If you have already applied for financial aid and received a financial aid award, you should complete and submit a Special Circumstances Form with the required documentation to the Office of Financial Aid.

What is the minimum GPA for renewal of financial aid from the University (scholarships, loans, etc.)?

The University requires all recipients of institutional financial aid to meet and maintain the minimum requirements for academic good standing, as outlined in the University Requirements of du Lac.

If I drop to part-time enrollment status, will that affect my financial aid?

In general, the financial aid award will be reduced for students who enroll less than full-time. If the student is considering part-time enrollment, we suggest they meet with a financial aid counselor to discuss the changes that would be specific to their situation.

Is financial aid available for study abroad?

Yes. Please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions for study abroad found on our website at: <http://financialaid.nd.edu/undergraduate/studyabroad.shtml>.

If I become a Resident Assistant (RA), how will that affect my financial aid?

The room and board scholarship that Resident Assistants (RAs) receive must be considered as a resource in the financial aid award. The following information is provided to help you understand how the scholarship may affect your financial aid award:

- University-based scholarship typically will not be affected; however, the total value of the student's scholarship and other financial aid cannot exceed the student's cost of education
- Students who serve as RAs will not be eligible for work on campus
- The room and board scholarship that RAs receive (worth \$1 , in 201 /201) could affect federal student loan eligibility

If the student has specific questions about their eligibility, they should schedule an appointment with a financial aid counselor.

Does living off-campus affect my financial aid?

The decision to live off-campus should not affect your eligibility for financial aid as the costs used to determine financial need are the same for on-campus and off-campus students.

► Scholarships and Grants

Does the University of Notre Dame offer academic merit-scholarships that are not based upon financial need?

The majority of financial aid at Notre Dame is administered and awarded based upon financial need as demonstrated through the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). All students admitted through the University's very selective admissions process are considered worthy of scholarship consideration on the basis of their outstanding academic and personal credentials. A thorough and consistent review of each applicant is conducted by the Financial Aid Office **each year** in order to determine a student's financial aid eligibility, including scholarship eligibility.

The Hesburgh-Yusko Scholars Program is a merit-based scholarship and enrichment program at the University of Notre Dame. The program is highly competitive. Students who wish to be considered for this program must apply through the Early Action admission program.

A total of 25 admitted students will be named Hesburgh-Yusko Scholars. The Hesburgh-Yusko Scholar will receive a \$25,000 merit scholarship to be awarded annually for up to four years of undergraduate study for a total award of \$100,000. In addition, Scholars will receive funding for four different Summer Enrichment Experiences.

To learn more about this program visit: <http://hesburgh-yusko.org>.

Will an outside scholarship affect my financial aid award?

The receipt of any scholarship, grant, or loan not listed on the original Award Letter must be reported to the Office of Financial Aid as soon as the student is notified of the award. The receipt of funds not listed on the Award Letter may result in an adjustment to the financial aid award.

As a guide, if a student receives aid beyond that which is listed on the Award Letter, the financial aid award may be adjusted by reducing or eliminating the Federal Perkins Loan (if applicable), Federal Work-Study and Federal Direct Subsidized Loan. Depending on the amount of the outside scholarship, it is possible that scholarships from Notre Dame (e.g., University Scholarship, Provost's Scholarship, etc.) may be reduced or eliminated.

If I receive an outside scholarship check payable to me, what am I suppose to do with the check?

You may cash the check or make it payable to the University for application to your Student Account. You are required, however, to report any outside scholarship awards you are or will be receiving, as they are considered to be a resource in your financial aid award. Scholarship funds are divided and half is applied to the fall term and half to the spring term, unless otherwise specified by the scholarship donor.

► Summer Session Financial Aid

Is financial aid available for summer session?

The University's Summer Session financial aid program is extremely limited. The Federal loans (Direct Loans and Direct PLUS Loans) and private educational loans are available for summer enrollment.

How do I apply for financial aid for summer school?

Students interested in receiving financial aid consideration for the summer session must complete the *Summer Session Financial Aid Application*, which is generally available on the Office of Financial Aid website in late-February. Applicants must also complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE applicable to the term of enrollment.

► General Questions

Where does the Office of Financial Aid send communications to currently enrolled students?

Correspondence is mailed to the students' campus or local address during the academic year. Correspondence is mailed to the students' home address between May and mid-August (unless the student is attending summer classes). The address used is the current address of record maintained by the University Registrar.

E-mail communication is used for current Notre Dame students. The e-mail address used is the students' Notre Dame email address. Email communication is not generally used to communicate with prospective and newly admitted students.

What communication will parents receive from the Office of Financial aid?

The Office of Financial Aid sends all correspondence to the student. The student is responsible for sharing the information with their parents.

What percent of Notre Dame students work?

Over 40 percent of our students work on campus. While students may choose to work off-campus, the majority choose to work on campus. If you want to learn more about the campus employment program, please visit our website at: <http://studentemployment.nd.edu>.

February 2012