

Financial Aid Handbook

Dickinson College
2020-21

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INTRODUCTION

This booklet is designed to answer many of the questions students and their families ask about Dickinson College's financial aid program. Additional information, specifically designed for prospective students, is available from the [Admissions Office](#). The information in this booklet is arranged under general headings which appear in the form of questions, such as, "How do I apply?" The headings should help you locate answers to specific questions. We strongly encourage you to read the entire booklet so that you will have a clear understanding of all the financial aid policies applicable to attendance at Dickinson. Please contact the Office of Financial Aid staff if you have additional questions. Contact information and staff directory can be found on [Page 24](#) of the handbook.

Note: Many financial aid policies are governed by federal regulation and could be impacted by changes to federal law.

OVERVIEW OF DICKINSON'S FINANCIAL AID POLICIES

- **Paying for a college education is primarily a family responsibility.** Need-based financial aid is provided as a supplement to the family's contribution. When parents are divorced, separated or never married, the ability of the noncustodial parent to contribute to college costs will be considered part of the family's financial support of the student.
- Although most Dickinson aid is based on demonstrated financial need, there are renewable [merit scholarships](#) not based on need offered to incoming first year students. Merit scholarships are considered "tuition" awards. These merit awards are offered only to prospective students at the time of admission; upper-class students who were not awarded merit scholarships are not eligible to receive merit scholarships in future years. Several academic departments award prizes to upper-class students, but awards are nominal, and their purpose is to recognize outstanding performance within the discipline.
- Eligibility for need-based aid is determined each year. Incoming first year students should file the appropriate forms according to the deadlines established for their admission program (see deadline information in Section [5. What Are The Deadlines?](#)). Upper-class students should apply no later than May 1 (or earlier if required for a state grant or scholarship). Late applicants are considered for Dickinson grant assistance on a funds-available basis.
- Estimated state or federal grants are frequently included in entering students' packages. If these grants do not materialize due to program changes, the Dickinson grant will be increased to make up the shortfall. Conversely, if the federal or state grant amount is higher than the initial estimated amount, the Dickinson grant will decrease accordingly. **Dickinson will not replace state or federal grants lost due to inaccurate application data or failure to complete the application process within deadlines.**
- Dickinson grant and scholarship funds are available only to full-time, matriculated students working on their first bachelor's degree. Note: *Due to COVID-19 and remote study, an exception has been made to this policy. Students can receive a pro-rated scholarship amount of half-time enrollment. Students may also be able to receive a pro-rated Dickinson Grant based on tuition-only for half-time study.* Some federal and state programs may be available for part-time students and those working on a second degree.
- In order to be considered independent for federal and state purposes for the 2020-2021 academic year, you must meet the [Federal definition](#) of an independent student:
 - born before January 1, 1997,
 - married as of the date the FAFSA is completed,

- a graduate or professional student when the award year starts,
- currently serving on active duty for purposes other than training,
- a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces,
- have dependents other than a spouse,
- an orphan, foster child, or ward/dependent of the court at any time since the age of 13,
- an emancipated minor or in legal guardianship or was when he reached the age of majority in his state, or
- determined at any time since July 1, 2019, to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless.

Dickinson College will review a student's independent status for institutional aid purposes on a case-by-case basis. For Dickinson grant purposes, students who turn 24, marry, or have children after their initial acceptance as dependent students will continue to be treated as dependent on the resources of their parents.

- In addition to financial aid programs for students, there are several financing options available to parents. Information on the Nelnet Campus Commerce monthly payment plan, parent loans, and student private loans is available on the [college's website](#).
- Applicants admitted as First Year students are eligible to receive Dickinson grant or scholarship aid for up to eight semesters of attendance. The eight-semester limit includes any enrolled semesters spent off-campus in non-Dickinson programs, as well as enrolled semesters in which a student does not receive or apply for financial assistance. Transfer students are limited to the number of semesters needed to complete their degrees as determined at the time of enrollment. For example, a student admitted as a first semester sophomore would be eligible to receive aid for six semesters of attendance. Note: *For the Fall 2020 semester, students either enrolled less than half time receiving a merit scholarship or enrolled half-time may receive a 9th semester of merit scholarship or pro-rated grant funds for their final semester.*

Although eligibility is usually based on family information, the student is the aid recipient. The Office of Financial Aid staff members normally direct correspondence to the student rather than to the parents. Our primary means of contact is through Dickinson College email addresses. It is vital that the student understands the financial aid process and takes an active role with their annual application. (See information regarding [FERPA](#), the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, available on the Dickinson College webpage in the Registrar's Office section.) Students may enable [Proxy Access](#) for other individuals, such as their parents, by providing a valid email address for the designated proxy. Proxy Access allows Dickinson students to grant online access to their student financial information using Banner Self-Service.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What Is Financial Aid?

Financial aid is assistance provided in the form of grants and scholarships (gift money which need not be repaid), low-interest loans (which must be repaid), and work opportunities (money that must be earned). Most financial aid is provided in the form of a package of both gift aid and self-help (work and/or loan). Most of the financial aid at Dickinson is provided to students who demonstrate financial need through the application process.

2. How Do I Apply?

Applications can be accessed through the Dickinson College Financial Aid Website under [How to Apply](#).

Prospective Students

U.S. citizens or permanent residents who wish to apply for **federal financial aid only**, including the PLUS Loan, need only complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). These applicants will not be considered for need-based Dickinson grant assistance. New students wishing to apply for Dickinson grant assistance and federal/state aid should complete BOTH the [CSS PROFILE](#) and the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) online applications. To ensure accuracy, Dickinson encourages families to utilize the IRS Data Retrieval Tool on the FAFSA. Some students may be required to complete additional forms. Students whose parents are divorced, separated, or were never married are asked to have the noncustodial parent complete a Noncustodial Parent CSS PROFILE as part of the CSS PROFILE application process. Families are also requested to send signed copies of parent and student federal tax returns along with all supplemental schedules and W2 forms to the College Board [IDOC Service](#). Do not email personal identifying information, such as tax returns or W2 forms to Dickinson. In most cases, Dickinson grant assistance will be awarded only after these applications and requested documentation have been received. The deadline for prospective students to submit their aid application is the same deadline as their admissions application.

We will ask enrolling first year students who receive need-based grants to complete a Financial Aid Recipient's Information Form during the summer preceding their arrival. The form is accessed through the Dickinson Gateway.

Returning Students

Current students who applied for federal aid the previous year will receive a notice from the Department of Education reminding them to complete their FAFSA after October 1. To ensure accuracy, Dickinson encourages families to utilize the IRS Data Retrieval Tool on the FAFSA.

All upper-class grant recipients must complete the online Financial Aid Application, available through the Dickinson Gateway. Since Dickinson grants are funded in part through endowed scholarship monies, this form helps the Office of Financial Aid select endowed scholarship recipients. The deadline for returning students to submit their renewal materials is May 1.

Returning students who have experienced changes in family circumstances should complete the [CSS PROFILE](#) application in addition to the FAFSA. Examples of circumstances that may warrant a reassessment of a student's Dickinson grant eligibility could include a job loss, a sibling entering college, or other significant events that have had financial repercussions. In addition to the CSS PROFILE and FAFSA, students requesting additional grant consideration must submit signed copies of both parent and student tax returns and W2 forms to the College Board IDOC Service. Do not email personal identifying information, such as tax returns or W2 forms to Dickinson. Unless the requirement had been previously waived, the Noncustodial Parent CSS PROFILE also must be completed if the student's parents are divorced, separated, or were never married.

FAFSA information applicable to prospective and returning students

The online [FAFSA](#) may be signed electronically using an [FSA ID](#) username and password. Students and parents must have separate FSA IDs. Please note that unless the student is independent per federal guidelines, both student and parents are required to "sign" the FAFSA for it to be considered complete. The same FSA IDs can be used each year the FAFSA is filed. Students also have the option to download and print a signature page. Once signed by the student and parent, the signature page should be mailed to the Department of Education, not the Office of Financial Aid.

When utilizing the IRS Data Retrieval Tool, users' tax return information will be encrypted and hidden from view on the IRS DRT web page, as well as on the online Student Aid Report (SAR) and the FAFSA webpage. This is to address privacy and security concerns. Applicants will also be informed that they have successfully transferred their tax return information, and the completed FAFSA will be sent to schools.

The student will receive a [Student Aid Report](#) (SAR) from the federal processor after completing the FAFSA. This form provides an opportunity for the student to correct any errors on the original application. If the initial FAFSA was completed using estimated tax return data, the FAFSA should be updated once tax returns have been filed. The information on the FAFSA is sent to the college electronically if the student has listed Dickinson's Federal School Code (003253) on the application.

All applicants should apply for grant aid from their home state, although not all states award grant aid to students attending college in Pennsylvania. While some states have developed a separate state grant application, most use information from the FAFSA. For the 2020-21 award year the following states may provide assistance to their residents attending college in: Pennsylvania, Delaware, Massachusetts, Ohio, Vermont, and West Virginia

International Students

Dickinson's financial aid is limited and is offered to the most competitive of our international applicants. All international students must complete the Certification of Finances form, whether applying for financial aid or not. International financial aid applicants whose parent or parents work outside the United States should complete the College Board International Student Financial Aid Application. Please contact the Office of Financial Aid if 2020-21 forms are needed. Students whose parent or parents work in the United States or Canada should complete the College Board's [CSS Profile](#) application. This form must be completed and submitted electronically. To access the 2021-22 forms, please see the [how-to-apply](#) section for prospective international students on our website.

Most international students requesting financial aid will receive a financial aid package that includes grant or scholarship monies, loans, and work study. International students are responsible for their travel both to and from the United States, and within the United States; personal expenditures, including the international student health insurance; and will be responsible for the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVIS) fee. International aid applicants do not need to reapply for financial aid every year since the financial aid package is based on the original Certification of Finances. If they wish to request additional assistance due to a change in their family's economic circumstances, they should contact the Director of Financial Aid to learn about the requirements for this process. International students who indicated "no need" for financial aid on the initial application are rarely granted assistance in subsequent years, unless there is a significant documentable change in their family's financial situation.

3. Is Financial Aid Information Kept Confidential?

Family financial information is held in the strictest confidence, and information about the amount of financial aid packages is not released outside the College administration without the approval of the student and/or family, unless required by federal law or subpoenaed by a court of law.

If fraud is suspected on an application for federal assistance, the college is required to report this situation to the U.S. Inspector General's Office. Information from the student's file will be released to authorities pursuing an investigation.

4. Is The Accuracy Of The Information Verified?

The Department of Education subjects each application for federal financial aid to a series of tests designed to identify missing, inconsistent, or illogical responses. If the application fails to pass these edits, the application is selected for verification. Some applications are selected randomly. It is not unusual for an applicant's FAFSA to be selected for verification.

When selected, the Office of Financial Aid must check the accuracy of certain data elements before federal financial aid can be finalized. To complete this process, the federal government requires most applicants to submit a Verification Worksheet and either unchanged use of the IRS Data Retrieval Tool available on the FAFSA or signed copy of their Federal Tax Return, including all schedules and W2 forms. Other applicants may be required to provide a signed statement verifying untaxed income, high school completion status and/or identity/statement of educational purpose. Non-tax filers will need to document their earned income and send copies of W2 forms. Independent students and parent non-filers selected for Verification will need to obtain an IRS letter of non-filing. Dickinson will also reconcile income information using parent and student federal tax returns, schedules, and W2 forms. Families may forward these documents via fax, mail, or electronically through the [Secure Upload Form](#). Do not email documents with personal identifying information to the Office of Financial Aid. The financial aid counselor reviewing the file may request additional information, especially when there appears to be a conflict within the information that has been provided.

Applicants and current students whose applications were selected for verification ordinarily must provide all requested information before their financial aid application can be processed. If verification shows that the information reported on the application is incorrect, we will recalculate eligibility for aid based upon accurate information. As a result, a student's Dickinson grant and/or other forms of aid may be reduced or eliminated. Students will receive a new financial aid offer if changes are made to their financial aid package due to verification. Students who do not provide requested documentation by the 60th day of enrollment may lose Federal Work-Study eligibility. Eligibility may be reinstated if documents are submitted later, if funds are available. Federal Pell Grants, Federal Direct Loans or Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants cannot be processed or credited until the verification process has been completed. Students who do not provide the necessary verification documents also may lose Dickinson grant assistance. For those having difficulty with the Verification process, aid packages will be processed, but funds will not disburse, until verification can be completed.

When an applicant has been selected for verification and the applicant or the parents have received an extension from the IRS, the applicant's aid may be processed. To do this, the family should send a copy of Form 4868, Application for Automatic Extension of Time to File U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, and W-2 forms. If one or both parents are self-employed, a signed statement with the amount of their adjusted gross income should be provided. Once the tax return has been submitted, the application will be re-verified. A student's eligibility for aid may change once the application has been re-verified.

When an applicant (or parent of a dependent applicant) has amended his/her tax return, a signed copy of the original return and a signed copy of the amended return (1040X) will be requested to complete the verification process.

5. What Are The Deadlines?

The CSS PROFILE (School Code 2186) and FAFSA (School Code 003253) should be submitted by the dates listed below:

Incoming First Year/Transfer students:

CSS PROFILE and FAFSA

Admission

Early Decision I

Early Decision II

Regular Decision

Transfer

Community College Partnership

Spring Start

Program Financial Aid Deadline

November 15

January 15

January 15

April 1 or November 1

March 1 or October 1

October 6

Current Students: May 1 (FAFSA, online Financial Aid Application, and CSS PROFILE, if applicable)

First year and transfer students are notified of their financial aid package at the time of acceptance for admission or shortly thereafter, provided that the aid application is on-time and complete. Upper-class financial aid applicants receive their financial aid packages in June, prior to the mailing of the fall billing statement in early July.

6. How Is Eligibility For Aid Determined?

A student must meet federal criteria to be eligible for federal financial aid. The criteria for individual federal aid programs are outlined in a separate publication, [Guide to Student Federal Aid](#). Eligibility for federal aid is determined according to the information provided on the FAFSA using a formula called Federal Methodology, which computes an Expected Family Contribution based on student and parent income, assets, and other factors. The Cost of Attendance (COA) minus the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) equals the student's federal eligibility ("financial need").

The Cost of Attendance is intended to give you an **estimate** of the total costs associated with attending Dickinson for the year. The COA includes both direct costs (tuition, fees, standard room and meal plan), and indirect costs (estimates for books, supplies, personal and travel expenses). Students will be billed for direct costs; indirect costs do not appear on the bill. Total aid (including loans and work study) cannot exceed the total Cost of Attendance.

Dickinson uses a separate Institutional Methodology, based on the CSS PROFILE, to determine eligibility for Dickinson grant funds. Additional factors beyond the data items requested on the FAFSA are considered. These include (but are not limited to) home equity, a contribution from the noncustodial parent, and, in the case of a family with more than one child in college, an evaluation of the actual costs involved in supporting the other student(s). Parents in college and siblings in graduate school are not normally counted as family members in college.

Dickinson expects each financial aid recipient to work during the summer and contribute a minimum of \$2,000 toward college costs. Students are expected to use a portion of their assets each year for educational expenses. Some students receive educational benefits from governmental agencies such as the Veterans' Administration and State Bureaus of Vocational Rehabilitation or from parents' employers in the form of tuition remission or tuition assistance. Such benefits will be taken into consideration when determining the financial aid package.

The financial aid package will list all the financial aid programs for which the student is eligible. The amount of financial aid that the student receives from these programs depends on the student's calculated need. The amount of Dickinson grant and scholarship aid may also be influenced by the academic achievement and promise of the applicant.

Students' financial need is recalculated for each year of attendance; as a result, awarded amounts of need-based aid may vary as need changes. The College attempts to maintain approximately the same amount of Dickinson grant funds from year to year unless need changes significantly. The student should submit a CSS PROFILE application if additional assistance is being requested as a result of a change in family circumstances. See also sections [9. Does The Amount Of Aid Ever Change?](#) and [10. What Are The Aid Limitations?](#) for more information.

7. What Types Of Assistance Are Available?

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS are gifts which do not have to be repaid. Gift aid comes from several sources: federal and state governments, colleges, and private organizations. In most cases, grants are based on financial need while scholarships are based on academic achievement or other talents. Dickinson is an NCAA Division III school; we cannot award scholarship assistance based on athletic performance, talent or promise.

Federal Pell Grant is the largest federal gift aid program, available only to families of relatively modest means. The amount of the grant varies according to both need and annual appropriation levels, the maximum Pell Grant for 2020-21 is \$6,345. The amount of the award is based on data provided on the FAFSA.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG) are disbursed directly by the College to students with the highest calculated need. SEOG funds are awarded only to Pell Grant recipients.

State Grants/Scholarships may be available to Dickinson students from Delaware, Massachusetts, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and West Virginia. Students must be certain to file the FAFSA and the appropriate state grant application and meet their home state's deadline.

Outside Scholarships are available from national or local organizations. The best source of information about local scholarships is the local high school guidance office or public library. For national scholarships, customized database searches may be conducted free of charge at [Fastweb](#) or at [College Board](#) (for example). Opportunities for outside scholarships are listed on the [Financial Aid website](#). Students are cautioned to be wise consumers when approached by scholarship search companies that charge a fee.

Dickinson College Grant Programs - including grants and endowed scholarships - are the single largest source of assistance to Dickinson students. While some students receive awards from a variety of restricted endowed funds or annual gifts to the college, most who receive assistance are helped through general grant resources. Although grants do not have to be repaid, we hope that alumni who have benefited from Dickinson grants will contribute to the College after graduation and help make attendance possible for future generations of Dickinsonians. The Donald B. and Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation Scholarship, established in 2009, takes this philosophy one step further by requiring recipients of these scholarships to affirm that they will endeavor to make their own contributions to this fund after they have repaid their student loans. We offer Stabler Foundation Scholarships to need-based grant recipients participating in summer, mosaic, and globally-integrated study abroad programs.

Merit Scholarships are conferred upon a limited number of the most highly-qualified incoming [first year students](#) and [transfer students](#), without regard to financial need. Eligibility for these merit-based tuition scholarships is determined by the Admissions committee based upon the admission application. Awards for first-year students

are renewable for three additional years. Awards for transfer students are limited to the number of semesters needed to complete their degrees as determined at the time of enrollment.

Award amounts will not change during the standard fall or spring term on campus or in a Dickinson study abroad program unless 1) grant assistance from all sources exceeds the Cost of Attendance; 2) the student registers for less than a full-time course load, or 3) the student fails to maintain a 3.0 cumulative average.

Should the cumulative GPA fall below 3.0, students are given at least one semester on probation to improve their academic performance; one bad semester will not result in loss of the scholarship. Students placed on scholarship probation must either:

1. Raise the cumulative GPA above 3.0 to be taken off probation;
2. Achieve at least a full-time semester GPA of 3.0 and continue on probation for another semester to be given additional time to raise the cumulative average above 3.0.

It is strongly recommended that students consult with their academic advisor or college dean regarding strategies to enhance their performance during the probation semester.

Please note that these awards, and any other scholarships not awarded based on financial need, are considered tuition scholarships. Since these are tuition scholarships, students receiving other assistance that fully covers tuition charges (ROTC, tuition remission) will lose eligibility for the merit scholarship. All tuition awards and tuition scholarships combined cannot exceed Dickinson's annual tuition charge.

Phi Theta Kappa Scholarships are offered to [Community College Partnership](#) students who are members of Phi Theta Kappa. Students must maintain a cumulative 3.0 grade-point average at Dickinson in order to renew this scholarship. The Transfer Admissions Committee selects recipients for this scholarship based upon the transfer admission applications. Awards are limited to four semesters of full-time enrollment.

Tuition Exchange Scholarships are awarded to students whose parents work for other participating academic institutions. The scholarships are competitive; not all eligible students are awarded a scholarship. The exporting institution must agree that the employee's child is eligible to receive the award. Continued eligibility is dependent on the student maintaining satisfactory academic progress and the parent's continued eligibility for the benefit. Students receiving Tuition Exchange scholarships may not receive funds from any other merit award program from Dickinson. For 2020-21, the scholarship is valued at \$38,000. Eligibility is limited to eight semesters of full-time study at Dickinson or at a Dickinson-sponsored program.

Academic Prizes, averaging \$200, are awarded by individual academic departments to recognize outstanding performance within their particular discipline. Financial need is not a selection criterion for these awards.

ROTC Scholarships are awarded by the US Department of Defense to students based on academic discipline, grade-point average, SAT scores, leadership potential, and physical fitness. Recipients of ROTC scholarships must commit to participation in the [Army ROTC](#) program at Dickinson, and to service as an officer in the US Army following graduation. The scholarship provides tuition, a monthly subsistence allowance during the school year, and an allowance each semester for books and supplies. ROTC Scholarship recipients also receive an additional grant of \$7,500- \$10,000 from Dickinson College, depending on their start date in ROTC. Since federal regulations and Pennsylvania grant regulations exclude the ROTC Scholarship, book allowance, and monthly stipend from the need analysis formula, ROTC candidates may be eligible for federal aid and Pennsylvania students may be eligible for the state grant. In some cases, the amount of aid an ROTC cadet receives may exceed our cost of attendance.

The book allowance and monthly subsistence allowance are not deducted from the Dickinson College billing statement (prepared by the Office of Student Accounts) since these awards are paid directly to the student. As a result, a student may owe money to the college despite receipt of financial assistance equal to the total cost of attendance (direct charges, plus the standard financial aid allowance for books and living expenses).

Dickinson grant assistance is not available to ROTC students studying abroad in a non-Dickinson Program. (See Section [12 Are Off-Campus Programs Covered?](#)) Interested students should contact Dickinson College's ROTC Office (717-245-1221) for additional information about this program.

Yellow Ribbon is a provision of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008. [Yellow Ribbon](#) permits qualified veterans (or dependents to whom the benefits have been assigned) to receive an education benefit in excess of the standard \$25,162.14 maximum for 2020-21. As a participating institution, Dickinson College meets 50% of the remaining tuition and fee expense with grant and/or scholarship; the other 50% will be met by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Students also receive stipends from the VA for housing, books and supplies. Students interested in taking advantage of this program should send us a copy of their Certificate of Eligibility from the VA. Only individuals determined by the VA to be eligible at the 100% benefit rate (based on service requirements) may receive Yellow Ribbon Program funding.

The book allowance and monthly housing allowance are not deducted from the Dickinson College billing statement (prepared by the Office of Student Accounts), since these awards are paid directly to the student. As a result, a student may owe money to the college despite receipt of financial assistance equal to the total cost of attendance.

Veteran's Education Benefits other than Yellow Ribbon will be treated as outside scholarships. Dickinson Grants will be reduced if total gift aid (scholarships, grants, allowances) exceeds the Cost of Attendance. Since federal regulations exclude veteran's benefits as a resource when determining eligibility for federal aid, students may retain eligibility for federal loans and work and their total aid may exceed the Cost of Attendance.

LOANS are funds available to students which must be repaid, with interest, after graduation. These are available from federal, private, and institutional sources. Most student loans begin repayment six months after graduation, or after a student drops below half-time enrollment.

Federal Direct Subsidized Loans are made directly to the student by the U.S. Department of Education. Since eligibility for a Direct Loan is based on federal need analysis, all students wishing to apply for this loan must complete the FAFSA. The interest on Federal Direct Subsidized Loans is paid by the federal government while the borrower is in school and during approved deferment periods, such as the six-month grace period after graduation. Maximum loan amounts vary according to grade level: \$3,500 for first year students, \$4,500 for sophomores and \$5,500 for juniors and seniors. The maximum subsidized amount an undergraduate student can borrow in total is \$23,000. Since an origination fee is deducted from the loan proceeds, the amount received is somewhat less than the amount borrowed. Direct loans with a first disbursement before October 1, 2020 have a 1.059% origination fee. Direct loans with a first disbursement on or after October 1, 2020 will have a 1.057% origination fee.

Loans are disbursed in two installments, half for the fall semester and half for the spring semester. Repayment begins six months after the borrower ceases at least half-time enrollment. Loan repayment may be deferred if the borrower is in school, unemployed, or suffering economic hardship. The interest rate for loans disbursed between 7/1/2020 and 6/30/2021 is 2.75%

In addition to the \$23,000 lifetime maximum, first-time Federal Direct Loan borrowers are limited in the amount of time they can receive Federal Direct Subsidized Loans. Borrowers may receive Direct Subsidized Loans for no more than 150% of the length of the student's current academic program (ex. 6 years for a 4-year

program). Once a student has reached the 150% enrollment limit, they will not be eligible for any further subsidized loans. If a student has reached the 150% enrollment limit, and they continue to enroll, they will lose the interest subsidy on the subsidized loans they borrowed in the past. Students who have reached the 150% limit will remain eligible for Direct Unsubsidized Loans.

Federal Unsubsidized Direct Loans ensure that all eligible students, regardless of calculated need, will be able to obtain a student loan. The terms for this loan, interest rate and origination fee are the same as for the Federal Direct Subsidized Loan (see above), except that interest accrues on the outstanding balance from the time it is disbursed until the loan is paid in full. The student may pay the interest as it accrues (recommended) or the interest will capitalize and be added to the principal of the loan upon repayment. The maximum total amount a dependent undergraduate can borrow is \$31,000, of which \$23,000 may be subsidized.

All students receiving a Federal Direct Loan may be eligible to borrow an additional \$2,000 per year in Federal Unsubsidized Direct Loan funds. Interested students should contact the [Office of Financial Aid](#).

Additional Federal Unsubsidized Direct Loans are available to students who are independent of their parents (according to Federal criteria) or whose parent or parents are denied eligibility for the PLUS loan. The maximum annual amount available is \$4,000 for first year students and sophomores and \$5,000 for juniors and seniors. Interest rates, origination fee and loan terms are the same as for the Unsubsidized Direct Loan. The maximum total amount of Direct Loans qualifying students may borrow is \$57,500.

Federal Direct PLUS Loan (Parent Loan) allows parents to finance part or all of a student's educational costs. Students must file a FAFSA before a PLUS Loan can be processed. Annual borrowing is limited only by the cost of education minus other financial aid, although parents with an [adverse credit history](#) may be denied eligibility. An origination fee is deducted from the loan proceeds, and repayment begins within 30-60 days of loan disbursement. The interest rate for 2020-21 is 5.30%. Direct PLUS loans with a first disbursement before October 1, 2020 have a 4.236% origination fee. Direct PLUS loans with a first disbursement on or after October 1, 2019 will have a 4.228% origination fee.

Interest rate for Direct Loan and Plus. Though federal loans have a fixed interest rate for the life of the loan, the rate for new loans changes each academic year. Students and parents who take advantage of these loans for several years likely will have a different, fixed interest rate for each year. The interest rate will remain the same on each loan until the loan is paid off or consolidated. The interest rate for new loans is determined each year based on the 10-year Treasury bill as of May each year plus an add-on of 2.5% for the Direct Loan and 4.6% for the PLUS. For 2020-21, the interest rate on Federal Direct Loans for undergraduates (subsidized and unsubsidized) is 2.75%; the PLUS (parent) loan interest rate is 5.30%.

Disputes Regarding Federal Loans. Any student who is unable to resolve a dispute concerning a Federal student loan, despite resolution attempts, may contact the [U.S. Department of Education's Student Loan Ombudsman](#) at 1-877-557-2575.

Private Student Loans are non-federal loans available to students with a credit-worthy co-signer that can be processed for a maximum amount equal to the Cost of Attendance (as determined for financial aid eligibility and listed on student financial aid packages) minus other financial aid. They may also be called "alternative loans."

Dickinson College discourages the use of [private student loans](#) unless absolutely necessary. These loans generally have variable interest rates (though higher fixed interest rates may be available), which can increase significantly over the life of a loan, and loan balances that cannot be consolidated with federal loans, potentially increasing repayment to unaffordable levels. We recommend that students discuss their situation with their financial aid counselor to make certain that a private loan is the best available option for their situation.

Benefits of Federal versus Private Student Loans. The federal student loan programs are attractive because no collateral is required to negotiate them. The US Government assures repayment of the loan if the student borrower dies or becomes permanently disabled. The federal direct loans are made in the student's name, and the student is legally responsible for repayment. For more information on the differences between Federal and Private loans visit the Department of Education [website](#).

The Abe and Cora Hurwitz Student Loan was established by the estate of Cora Rabinowitz Hurwitz in honor of her commitment to education and the memory of her husband Abe, Dickinson Class of 1934. This low-interest loan is offered to students demonstrating financial need. The interest rate for 2020-21 is fixed at 2.75% and has a ten-year repayment period. Until repayment begins, no payment is required, and interest does not accrue. Repayment begins six months after the student withdraws or graduates from Dickinson College.

EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS offer students opportunities to work on campus and in the community. [Work Study](#) opportunities are available to students to help offset incidental college costs. Earnings are not deducted from the Student Accounts billing statement; instead, money earned is paid directly to the student every two weeks. Most student employees are paid at a rate slightly higher than the national minimum wage. A few students who hold especially responsible positions are paid at a higher rate. All student employees are subject to the normal requirements of employment. Failure to meet job requirements may result in loss of the position and of that financial resource.

The Federal Work-Study (FWS) Program provides a campus employment opportunity to eligible students. FWS earnings may be used only for education-related expenses. The work opportunity averages \$2,500 and is earned by working 10-12 hours per week. Entering first-year students who are awarded FWS receive employment information in June. First-year students work in College Dining Services. First-year students will receive additional information in the summer and attend a Dining Services employment meeting during Orientation. Upper-class students locate their own jobs by applying directly to departments or offices using the Career Center's online search service, Handshake, available through the Gateway. A work study award does not guarantee employment.

Federal guidelines require colleges to dedicate a certain number of work-study jobs to community service, defined as '...services that are designed to improve the quality of life for community residents, particularly low-income individuals, or to solve particular problems related to their needs.' Dickinson has partnered with several nonprofit organizations in the Carlisle area to provide community service work study options. More information is available from the [Student Employment office](#).

Institutionally funded employment may be available to students who are not eligible for Federal Work-Study. Except for Dining Services, these positions usually require specialized skills.

PAYMENT PLAN

Nelnet Campus Commerce Monthly Payment Option The [Nelnet Campus Commerce](#) (formerly Tuition Management Systems) payment plan allows you to spread out your fall semester balance over five months (June to October) and spread out your spring semester balance over five months (November to March) for a small fee of \$35.00 per semester enrollment. For fall enrollments, families may contact Nelnet Campus Commerce as early as May to set up a 5 month payment plan which runs from June 1 through October 1. *The fall enrollment deadline is August 1st.* For spring enrollments families may contact Nelnet Campus Commerce as early as October to set up a 5 month payment plan which runs from November 1 through March 1. *The spring enrollment deadline is December 30.* For further information on important plan dates, please visit the Nelnet Campus Commerce [website](#).

8. How Is Financial Aid Credited To The Student's Account?

Most financial aid is credited once a semester directly to the student's College account, including funds received from College grants and scholarships, Federal Direct Loans, Federal SEOG, Federal Pell Grants, and state grants. Federal Direct Loans are credited after the student completes entrance counseling and signs a Master Promissory Note. Federal funds cannot be credited to the student's account earlier than ten days before the beginning of the semester. All required verification must be completed before funds can disburse.

According to Dickinson's policy, funds from all of the Federal Title IV financial aid programs (Pell Grant, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, Direct Loan, Parent PLUS) are the first credits applied against a student's charges, regardless of the order in which funds are received. If a credit balance is created by these awards once they are applied against charges for tuition, fees, room and board, the College is required to refund the balance to the student and/or parent.

State and federal grant amounts are estimated on award notices for entering students; actual grant amounts are credited only after official notification is received from the awarding agency and all required forms have been submitted to the Office of Financial Aid. Any necessary adjustment to the awarded amount will occur at that time. See Section [9. Does The Amount Of Aid Ever Change?](#)

It is important to note that funds from outside sources (such as private student loans or outside scholarships) do not appear as a credit on a student's account until the endorsed check or electronic funds transfer (EFT) has been received by the Office of Student Accounts.

Federal Work-Study and Institutional Work-Study (International Students) earnings do not appear as a credit on a student's account. Students are paid every two weeks for the hours worked during that period and may use the money as they choose to meet educational costs.

LATE FEES

Accounts not settled by the due date are subject to a late payment fee of \$50 and 1.5 % per month interest charge on the unpaid balance. The Office of Student Accounts may remove late payment charges from the account if arrangements have been made for deferral of an anticipated amount from an outside source. Late payment charges will continue to appear on the bill until the anticipated amount is received.

9. Does The Amount Of Aid Ever Change?

The Office of Financial Aid may reduce or eliminate financial aid offers if the student receives additional assistance from an outside source. Financial aid offers also may be reduced if the family financial information reported on the application for financial aid is inaccurate. These changes are made to protect the equity of awarded packages and to conform to federal and/or state regulations. Application errors should be corrected at once to prevent unnecessary frustration and inconvenience.

A few families may need to use estimated data when filing financial aid applications. Estimates should be as accurate as possible. Any aid package awarded on estimated data will be considered tentative until the reconciliation process is completed.

In future years, if there are **no** significant changes in financial circumstances (i.e. increase in income) or family circumstances (i.e. the number of siblings pursuing an undergraduate degree decreases), need-based aid from Dickinson should remain relatively constant. However, if income and/or assets increase, and/or the number of siblings enrolled in an undergraduate program decreases, need-based aid from Dickinson may be significantly reduced.

Estimated Federal and State Grants. Dickinson grants may be revised if initial estimates of federal or state aid prove to be incorrect. If the federal or state grant is higher than estimated and need has been fully met, the College grant will be reduced so that the total amount of gift aid remains the same as in the original package. If the federal or state grant is lower than the estimate through no fault of the applicant, the Dickinson Grant will be increased. If the student did not apply, or if the application was late or had inaccurate data, the lost or reduced award will not be made up with college funds. Dickinson Grant funds will not be added to compensate for lost or reduced outside aid if a Dickinson Grant was not a part of the original package.

Outside scholarships, such as those received from the PTA or Elks Club must be reported to the Office of Financial Aid. Outside awards, when added to other financial aid awards received, will first fill any unmet need. Once need has been met, an adjustment will be made to the self-help portion of the package. For example, receipt of an outside scholarship of \$500 would result in a reduction of the recommended loan or work-study by \$500 if the federally calculated need already has been fully met. **Dickinson grants and scholarships will not be affected by receipt of an outside scholarship unless the student's gift aid exceeds Cost of Attendance.** The Pennsylvania State Grant and other programs may have their own caps on grants and scholarship aid. It is especially important that students receiving outside awards notify the Office of Financial Aid as early as possible so that necessary adjustments can be made before loans are processed.

Low-Interest or Interest-Free Student Loans, such as those from foundations, community organizations, etc. must be reported to the Financial Aid Office. These loans, when added to other financial aid awards received, will first fill any unmet need. Once need has been met, an adjustment will be made to the self-help portion of the package. Colleges and universities must take these loans into account if they have been approved because of the student's enrollment in postsecondary education. **Dickinson grants and scholarships will not be affected by receipt of a low-interest or interest-free loan unless the student's total financial aid exceeds Cost of Attendance and all need-based self-help has already been adjusted to \$0.** If you have any doubt about whether a loan should be reported to the Financial Aid Office, please share your loan approval letter and/or promissory note with the Financial Aid Office.

Tuition assistance or remission provided by a parent's employer is considered a form of financial aid. It does not reduce the family's expected contribution but is treated as a resource which must be included in the financial aid package. Eligibility for need-based aid is calculated on the resulting reduced need. Students receiving full tuition assistance are not eligible for Dickinson grant assistance.

Note: Tuition Exchange (TE) awards are not treated as outside scholarships since Dickinson College funds these awards. Students eligible for two non-need-based tuition awards (TE and a merit award, for example) will receive the larger of the two awards. All tuition awards and tuition scholarships combined cannot exceed Dickinson's annual tuition charge.

Major Changes in Financial Circumstances. Families experiencing significant reductions in income should contact the Office of Financial Aid for guidance. Additional federal, state and/or institutional funding may be available to help students whose families have experienced death, disability, unemployment, or similar circumstances. A Reduced Income Form, [CSS PROFILE](#), signed federal tax returns and/or other documentation will be required to document the changed situation.

10. What Are The Aid Limitations?

Satisfactory Progress. Students are expected to complete enough courses to move to a new grade level each year. Normally, students complete the B.A. or B.S. degree in four academic years by taking four courses per semester. Matriculated students must complete at least 32 courses for graduation. First year students become sophomores after completing seven courses fulfilling graduation requirements. Sophomores become juniors

after 15 courses, and juniors achieve senior status after 24 courses. Details concerning College policies on incomplete courses, withdrawals, and other academic matters can be found in the [College Bulletin](#).

Satisfactory progress is measured at the end of each academic year. For students who do not progress one grade level, and for part-time students, satisfactory academic progress will be measured by comparing the number of courses attempted to the number completed successfully. Attempted courses include all withdrawals, incompletes, and failures. Students must successfully complete the following percentage of courses attempted:

- First-year students 60%
- Sophomores 70%
- Juniors, Seniors 80%

Students also must meet a minimum grade-point average for each level of study to remain in good standing at Dickinson. The minimum grade-point average for a first-year student to be in good academic standing at the end of the academic year is 1.75. Sophomores must achieve a minimum of 2.0 for the year or a cumulative grade-point average of 2.0. Juniors and seniors must earn a cumulative grade-point average of at least 2.0 by the end of the academic year to remain in good standing and to graduate.

Any variations from these standards must be approved by the [Committee on Academic Programs and Standards](#) which, in some cases, will allow students to remain at Dickinson on a period of academic probation. Students on academic probation are considered to be making academic progress under institutional policies and are eligible to receive financial aid. See the [College Bulletin](#) for additional details.

A student who does not progress to the next grade level, or does not remain in good academic standing, may lose eligibility for some institutional, federal, and state aid programs. Eligibility will be reinstated once satisfactory progress is regained. In the interim, the Office of Financial Aid may be able to suggest alternative financing options which would enable the student to continue enrollment.

Maximum Financial Aid Eligibility. Dickinson students entering as first semester first-year students are eligible to receive Dickinson grant assistance for up to eight semesters of attendance. The eight-semester limit includes any enrolled semesters spent off-campus in non-Dickinson programs, as well as enrolled semesters in which a student does not receive or apply for financial assistance. Transfer students are limited to the number of semesters initially determined to be needed to complete their course of study. For example, a student entering as a first semester sophomore would be eligible for institutional assistance for up to six semesters of attendance.

Students requesting variance from this policy must submit an appeal in writing to the financial aid committee, petitioning for an additional semester of assistance.

Dickinson grant assistance is not available for summer study other than as outlined in Section [13. Is Summer Session Attendance Covered?](#)

Federal aid may be available to students who have exceeded their maximum number of semesters for institutional aid. A complete discussion of maximum aid eligibility in the federal financial aid programs can be found in the [Guide to Student Federal Aid](#). Students may receive federal financial aid at Dickinson College for an absolute maximum of six years of full-time study (48 attempted courses for part-time students).

Other Limitations. On-time applications are given priority for institutional funds. Students who submit applications or other required supporting documents after the established deadlines may find that the remaining funding is inadequate for their needs. See Section [5. What are the Deadlines?](#) for details. Dickinson grant assistance is provided to full-time degree-seeking candidates only. Some federal and state programs are available to part-time, matriculated students. Continuing Education students are not eligible for financial aid

unless they are pursuing teacher certification. These students may be eligible to borrow money through the Federal Direct Loan program. Students with questions about financial aid eligibility are encouraged to discuss their situation with their financial aid counselor.

11. Is The Money I Receive For Financial Aid Taxed?

U.S. Citizens. Income earned from Federal Work-Study or institutional employment is subject to federal and state income taxes, as with any other earnings. Money received from grants and scholarships may be subject to Federal income taxation if grants and scholarships from all sources exceed the cost of tuition, fees, books, and required equipment and supplies. Money received from loans is not taxable. For more detailed information, contact the [Internal Revenue Service](#) or your personal tax advisor.

International Students. Grant and scholarship aid in excess of tuition may be subject to U.S. taxation unless the student's home country has a formal tax agreement with the U.S. government. For more information, please contact the [Center for Global Study and Engagement](#).

12. Are Off-Campus Programs Covered?

Students who attend any of the academic year programs administered by Dickinson College (Dickinson and Dickinson Partner Programs), or the Central Pennsylvania Consortium exchange program, are eligible to be considered for all forms of financial aid except for employment programs. Information on costs for these programs can be found on the Center for Global Study and Engagement [website](#).

Students enrolled in non-Dickinson programs are not eligible to receive Dickinson Grant, Scholarship, Tuition Exchange, or Loan assistance nor can Dickinson funds be used to pay the Non-Dickinson Program Study Abroad Fee. They may be eligible for assistance from some federal (Pell Grant, Direct Loan) and state programs. A detailed description of the steps necessary to receive this aid is available from the Office of Financial Aid or on the [Dickinson Financial Aid web site](#). Students may arrange for the program charges to be billed through Dickinson's [Office of Student Accounts](#) and must complete an Off-Campus Financial Aid Information Form so that Dickinson's Office of Financial Aid can execute a Consortium Agreement with the host institution. Receipt of a completed Consortium Agreement prior to the student's enrollment allows Dickinson, as the home institution, to administer federal financial aid. Parents of students studying abroad may also use the financing systems ([PLUS](#), [Nelnet Campus Commerce](#)) mentioned earlier in this booklet.

3-2 Engineering programs, 3+3 Penn State Dickinson School of Law, Johns Hopkins University (JHU) Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) and Thunderbird School of Global Management Certificate of Advanced Global Studies. Dickinson College financial aid does not extend to the student's time at the linkage institution. Check with the participating school for their current financial aid policy.

13. Is Summer Session Attendance Covered?

Students who need loan assistance to pay for summer classes at other institutions must first obtain approval to take these classes from the [Registrar's Office](#) and forward a copy of their approval to the Office of Financial Aid. Dickinson must execute a Consortium Agreement with the host school before summer loan assistance can be processed. Not all host schools will be willing to wait for payment until the summer loan has been processed, approved, credited to the Dickinson student account, and refunded; students taking classes elsewhere should be prepared to pay their host school up front and reimburse themselves with their loan refund. Students are encouraged to discuss summer planning with their financial aid counselor.

Students currently receiving need-based Dickinson grant assistance may receive aid for a single Short-Term Summer, Globally-Integrated, or Mosaic program in addition to the traditional eight semesters required for

graduation. A student may receive grant assistance (ordinarily through the Stabler Scholarship fund - [see Dickinson College Grant Programs](#)) for only one such program during his or her academic career. Students enrolling in summer programs bearing more than one credit may receive institutional aid for one course only; students may use Direct Loans to supplement any other assistance. Grant assistance will be awarded to students with the highest financial need. Because a limited amount of grant aid is available for summer study, students must apply early. Applicants will receive summer financial aid packages shortly after they have been accepted into their program, before they must make their final decision to attend.

Students enrolling in summer school at Dickinson may be eligible for federal financial aid, including the Direct Loan. Dickinson Grant funds are not available for summer school unless required to attend, as described in the next paragraph.

Students who are required to attend summer school by the Committee on Academic Program and Standards may request grant assistance to help defray the unanticipated expense. Students who use a summer grant may do so only once in their career at Dickinson. This summer grant assistance will replace the eligibility for assistance for the short-term Summer Globally-Integrated or Mosaic programs mentioned above.

14. What Happens If I Become A Resident Advisor?

The room fee waiver will be treated as a resource for determining eligibility for need-based aid. Eligibility for subsidized student loans and Federal Work-Study may be reduced if increased resources exceed the student's federal eligibility. Dickinson grant eligibility will NOT be affected unless the total revised aid exceeds the Cost of Attendance. A student who becomes an RA may still be eligible to participate in the Federal Work-Study program. International students may not be employed for more than 10 additional hours per week in work-study, institutional, or outside jobs, according to federal regulations. A financial aid counselor can provide more specific information for individuals who are considering becoming an RA.

15. What If I Live Off-Campus?

The financial aid budget is reduced to reflect the reduced living costs of commuters (students who live with their parents within a 25 mile radius). The budget will include an allowance for personal expenses, transportation, meals, and household expenses. Since the costs associated with commuting are lower, eligibility for financial aid also will be reduced. For those living off-campus and not with parents, the Office of Financial Aid will use Dickinson's current standard room and board costs as an estimate of living costs. *A separate budget was developed for students living at home for the Fall 2020 due to Covid-19 and remote study.* Budgets for independent students as defined by the FAFSA may include an Independent Student Allowance as an estimate of living costs. Commuting and off-campus students are billed for tuition and fees only; if financial aid credits exceed billable costs, the excess can be refunded to the student to assist in paying for food, rent, or transportation expenses. Students may request credit refunds from the Office of Student Accounts after the first week of classes.

16. What If I Live In Premium Housing On Campus?

Eligibility for financial aid is based on our standard Cost of Attendance, which includes the annual cost for a standard double room and meal plan. The cost of attendance will not be adjusted to reflect the modestly higher [cost](#) for a single room or apartment suite, unless a student has been approved for a certain type of housing for a medically necessary documented accommodation

17. Is There An Appeal Process?

Students who have a concern regarding Dickinson's financial aid policies should first discuss the issue with their financial aid counselor. Most concerns can be addressed at that level. If a satisfactory outcome cannot be reached, the student may submit an appeal for variance from the institutional policy to the Financial Aid Committee. If the appeal is a request for additional funds, it must be in writing, and include:

- The additional dollar amount of aid which the student believes would make continued enrollment financially feasible; and
- The specific financial circumstances which have led to the request (please use dollar amounts wherever applicable and provide supporting documentation).

Appeals concerning policy variance must include a clear description of the student's situation, detailing the reason the variance is being requested.

Appeals concerning satisfactory academic progress should be addressed to the Chair of the Committee on Academic Programs and Standards.

18. What If I Withdraw From The College?

Refunds & Return of Title IV Funds Policy

Dickinson College's refund policy applies to all students attending the Carlisle campus who withdraw, are dismissed, or take a leave of absence from the college after the start of classes. A separate policy applies to those who are attending sites approved through the [Center for Global Study and Engagement](#) (please see program information published by that office).

A student's date of withdrawal is determined by either:

- The date the student begins the withdrawal process by contacting the appropriate advisor, or
- The date the student is officially dismissed from the College, or
- If the student leaves without notifying the institution, the mid-point of the semester or the student's last documented attendance at an academically-related activity, whichever is later.

Refunds of all institutional charges for tuition, required fees, room and board are determined on a daily pro-rata basis until 60% of the semester has been completed. No refunds are calculated after 60% of the semester has elapsed. Weekends are included in counted days except when part of a scheduled period of non-attendance of five days or more, such as spring break.

For example, if a semester includes 110 days from the first day of classes through the last day of final exams and a student withdraws on the 50th day, Dickinson will retain 45.4 % (rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent) of charges for tuition, fees, room and board. The complementary percentage, 54.6%, would be

refunded to the student and/or the financial aid programs that have paid a portion of the student's costs. Any outstanding balance will be deducted from the refund due to the student.

Students who withdraw prior to the beginning of the first day of classes will receive a 100% refund, except for the non-refundable enrollment deposit.

For students receiving financial aid, the following rules apply:

- A. Funds will be returned to financial aid programs before any funds are returned to the student.
- B. Return of Title IV (Federal) Funds: Funds received from the Federal financial aid programs will be aggregated and refunded to the programs using the same percentage as calculated above. After 60% of the semester has been completed, federal financial aid funds are viewed as "earned" in their entirety, and no refund will be made. Funds will be returned in the order prescribed by the US Department of Education: Unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan, Subsidized Federal Direct Loan, , Federal PLUS Loan, Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant.
- C. Grant/Scholarship aid from Dickinson will be refunded to the source from which it came using the calculated refund percentage.
- D. State Grants will be refunded in accordance with the guidelines of the appropriate state grant agency.
- E. Outstanding balances due to the College will be deducted from any refund due to the student. If the student's bill has not been paid in full or if there are new charges on the student's account, the refund credit to the student account may not fully cover the charges. In this instance, the student may continue to have an outstanding balance owed to Dickinson, and will not receive a cash refund. Otherwise, any credit remaining on the student account will be refunded to the student within 30 days.

The Office of Financial Aid is required by federal statute to recalculate federal financial aid eligibility for students who withdraw Officially, Unofficially, Administratively and for those who take an unapproved leave of absence. The federal Title IV financial aid programs must be recalculated in each of these situations to determine the amount of aid earned by the student.

Return of unearned aid should be completed as soon as possible, and no later than 45 days after the date of determination.

The College may credit a student's account with a post-withdrawal disbursement of eligible Title IV grant funds without the student's permission for current charges for tuition, fees, and room and board (if the student contracts with the College) up to the amount of outstanding charges. The College must credit the student's account with the post-withdrawal disbursement of Title IV Grant funds for current charges within 180 days of the date of determination.

The College must notify a student, or, in the case of a Direct Parent PLUS Loan, parent, in writing prior to making any post-withdrawal disbursement of loan funds, whether those loan funds are to be credited to the student's account or disbursed directly to the student or parent. The information provided in this notification must include the information necessary for the student or parent to make an informed decision as to whether the student or parent would like to accept any disbursement of loan funds, and must be provided within 30 days of the date of a College's determination that a student has withdrawn. The College can also impose a deadline for the response requirement from the student. In addition, the notice must request confirmation of any post-withdrawal disbursement that the student or parent, as applicable, wishes the College to make.

19. How can I keep track of my loan debt?

Students who borrow federal Direct Loans (both subsidized and unsubsidized) are encouraged track their loan debt at <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/>. Students will need their FSA ID and password to log in and view their student loan information. Students may use the site to keep track of their aggregate borrowing, to determine their loan servicer(s), to learn the interest rates of their previous loans, and to track when their loans will enter repayment. Students should review their student loan account at least annually. Early awareness of total student loan debt can help students to make educated decisions.

20. Where can I Find Consumer Information?

Federal regulations require colleges to provide consumer information. Students are individually notified of the availability of required reports and disclosures once a year via the Gateway interrupt. Please [click here](#) to review the required reports and disclosures. Individual disclosures and reports will be provided in written form upon request.

21. Where can I Find Financial Literacy Information?

Understanding basic financial literacy is an essential skill both during college and beyond Dickinson's limestone walls. The Office of Financial Aid collaborates with a financial literacy educator, [iGrad](#), to bring web-based resources to our students and alumni. The program offers loan counseling, scholarship search resources, and tips on savings, investing, and retirement planning. We expect all students will register for this free resource and encourage them to complete at least one iGrad course during their first year at Dickinson.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A discussion of federal financial aid recipients' rights and responsibilities is included in [The Guide to Federal Student Aid](#), a financial aid publication of the U.S. Department of Education. This publication contains more detailed information about the federal student aid programs mentioned in this booklet.

Dickinson provides services for disabled students on an individual basis depending upon need. These services are administered by the [Access and Disability Services](#).

Most of the academic facilities of the College are accessible to mobility-impaired students. Facilities include wheelchair ramps, special parking, elevators, specially equipped restrooms, and lowered drinking fountains.

The College operates drug abuse prevention programs that are accessible to students and employees at the institution. Further information is available for students through the [Wellness Center](#), and for employees through [Human Resources Services \(Franco Associates\)](#).

Upon request, the Office of Financial Aid will provide the full address and phone number of the [agency](#) in each of the 50 states and the U.S. territories where information regarding state student financial aid is available.

Due to Covid-19 there may be one-time exceptions to institutional policies for the 2020-21 academic year.

SUSPENSION OF FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY FOR DRUG-RELATED OFFENSES

Conviction

Per federal regulations, a student who has been convicted of any offense under any Federal or State law involving the possession or sale of a controlled substance shall not be eligible to receive any Title IV Federal grant, loan, or work assistance during the period beginning on the date of such conviction and ending after the interval specified in the following table:

If convicted of an offense involving:

The possession of a controlled substance:

Ineligibility period is:

First offense1 year
Second offense2 years
Third offenseIndefinite

The sale of a controlled substance:

Ineligibility period is:

First offense2 years
Second offenseIndefinite

Rehabilitation

A student whose eligibility has been suspended may resume eligibility before the end of the ineligibility period if—

1. the student satisfactorily completes a drug rehabilitation program that—
 - a. complies with the criteria established by the Secretary of Education;
 - b. includes two unannounced drug tests;
2. the student successfully passes two unannounced drug tests conducted by a drug rehabilitation program that complies with criteria established by the Secretary of Education; or
3. the conviction is reversed, set aside, or otherwise rendered nugatory.

The term “controlled substance” has the meaning given the term in section 102(6) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802(6)) and includes marijuana.

Title IV Federal Aid includes: Federal Work Study, Federal Direct Loans, Federal Pell Grants, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, and Federal Perkins Loans.

WHOM TO CONTACT FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE

For information about academic and social programs at Dickinson College, please consult the [Dickinson College Bulletin](#) or contact the [Office of Admissions](#) (717-245-1231). Information related to bills or the billing process may be obtained from the [Office of Student Accounts](#) (717-245-1953). Information related to study abroad may be obtained from the [Center for Global Study and Engagement](#) (717-245-1341). Questions regarding the financial aid programs should be directed to one of the following members of the [Office of Financial Aid](#) staff:

General Questions/Appointment Scheduling

[Diane Morris](#)
Administrative Assistant

Domestic students with the
Last names beginning A-D

[Ruth Cramer](#)
Senior Associate Director

Domestic students with the
Last names beginning E-G
And student loan questions

[Anders Hansen](#)
Financial Aid Specialist

Domestic students with the
Last names beginning with H-O

[Christopher Ackley](#)
Assistant Director

Domestic students with the
Last names beginning with P-W

[Erica Burg](#)
Associate Director

Domestic students with the
Last names beginning with X-Z,
All International Students,
Certifying Official for
Veteran's Benefits

[Leah Young](#)
Director of Financial Aid

Office of Financial Aid
Dickinson College
P.O. Box 1773
Carlisle, PA 17013-2896

Phone: (717) 245-1308
Fax: (717) 245-1972
E-Mail: finaid@dickinson.edu
Document Upload: [Secure Upload Form](#)

[CSS Profile](#) School Code 2186

[FAFSA](#) School Code 003253

Dickinson College is an intellectual and social community which values justice, free inquiry, diversity and equal opportunity. It is a fundamental policy of the College to respect pluralism and to promote tolerance, civility and mutual understanding within its community. The College does not discriminate on such bases as race, color, sex, political and religious beliefs, marital status, age, sexual orientation, national and ethnic origins, veteran's status or disability.

REV.02/2021

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Academic Year (AY): The enrollment period for which aid is awarded. Academic years begin July 1st and end June 30th of the following calendar year.

Cost of Attendance (COA): The estimated total cost of attending an institution for one academic year. This amount may include the following:

- Estimated charges for one academic year of tuition and fees
 - Tuition – Charges assessed for classes and/or other coursework
 - Fees – Charges assessed for other college services (e.g. technology access, recreational center use)
- Housing – Includes residence hall charges for on-campus students or an estimate of rent and utilities for an off-campus student
- Food – Includes the cost of a meal plan and/or an estimate of the costs of food prepared at home
- Estimated transportation and parking costs
- Estimated costs for books and supplies
- Purchase or rental of a computer
- Miscellaneous costs such as personal hygiene, laundry, and reasonable entertainment
- Other costs specific to certain student circumstances related to attendance, such as dependent care during periods of class attendance or study, expenses related to disabilities, study abroad, educational loan fees, and others
- Student health insurance costs

CSS Profile: Available from the College Board, this document collects additional financial and household information. We use the CSS Profile when we determine a student's eligibility for Dickinson grant money. Dickinson's [CSS Profile](#) code is 2186.

Data Retrieval Tool: Also referred to as the IRS DRT. The Data Retrieval Tool is a feature of the FAFSA which allows applicants to import their finalized federal tax information from a previous year. The IRS DRT is not available for all filing situations, but many families will find it reduces the time they spend completing the FAFSA. Successful use of the IRS DRT can be accepted for those families whose applications have been selected for Verification.

Demonstrated Need: We calculate your aid eligibility by looking at the difference between budgeted student costs, and the strength of your family's financial resources. The formula is Cost of Attendance minus Expected Family Contribution equals Demonstrated Need. (COA – EFC = Need)

Dependent Student: On the FAFSA, a dependent student must report parent financial information. Find information on dependency status [here](#).

Educational Loan: A form of financial aid that must be repaid. Educational loans have varying fees, interest rates, repayment terms, and/or borrower protections.

- **Federal Student Loan:** Federal funds made available to the student that must be paid back by the student. Students must complete Entrance Counseling and a Master Promissory Note (MPN) to receive these loans. Repayment begins six months after the

student ceases to be enrolled at least half-time with options to delay payment available. To be eligible, the student must be enrolled at least half-time in an eligible program of study.

- **Federal Direct Subsidized Student Loan:** Loan funds provided *to the student* by the U.S. Department of Education, through the school. Undergraduate students with financial need can qualify for a subsidized loan. The government pays the interest on the loan while the student remains enrolled at least half time and during certain periods when the government allows deferment of repayment. There are annual limits on the amounts that may be borrowed, which vary by the student's academic year in school and the student's dependent or independent status.
- **Federal Direct Unsubsidized Student Loan:** Loan funds provided *to the student* by the U.S. Department of Education, through the school. Undergraduate students and graduate students regardless of their need, qualify for an unsubsidized loan, provided they have filed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Interest accrual begins immediately, and the student can choose to pay the interest while enrolled or upon entering repayment. There are annual limits on the amounts that may be borrowed, which vary by the student's academic year in school and the student's dependent or independent status.
- **Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan (PLUS):** Loan funds provided *to the parents of* dependent undergraduate students by the U.S. Department of Education, through the school. This federal loan program allows parents with no adverse credit history to apply for a loan amount up to the Cost of Attendance each year, less any financial aid received by the dependent student. Repayment of principal and interest begins immediately once the loan is fully disbursed with some options to delay payment available.
- **Private Loan:** A student or parent loan from a commercial, state-affiliated or institutional lender used to pay for up to the annual Cost of Attendance, less any financial aid received. Private loans have varying interest rates, fees and repayment options and usually require the applicant to be creditworthy or have a creditworthy cosigner. Repayment generally begins immediately.

Enrollment Status: Academic workload (or course load), as defined by the institution, in which a student is enrolled for a defined academic period. This normally relates to the number of credit hours or clock hours taken by a student during a given academic period (e.g. full-time, three-quarter-time, half-time, less-than-half-time).

Expected Direct Costs: Charges included in the Cost of Attendance that the student/family pays directly to the college.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC): An eligibility index that college financial aid staff use to determine how much financial aid you would receive if you were to attend their school. The EFC is calculated according to a formula specified in law and is based upon the information provided by the student and their family on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA and CSS Profile may calculate different EFCs, and both are used in determining a student's need-based aid eligibility.

Family Financial Responsibility (FFR): Many schools award institutional need-based scholarships and grants based upon a more comprehensive calculation of family financial circumstances using information provided on the CSS PROFILE or the institution's own financial aid form. This can result in a higher (or lower) figure than the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) might indicate with its Expected Family Contribution (EFC) estimate.

Family Grid: Provides information on household size and the number of students in college. Read guidelines carefully to determine who should be included on your family grid.

Federal Pell Grant: A federal grant provided by the federal government to undergraduate students who demonstrate exceptional financial need and have an Expected Family Contribution below a certain threshold established by the federal government. The Pell Grant award amount is prorated based on Enrollment Status.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG): A federal grant awarded by the institution to qualified undergraduate students who demonstrate exceptional financial need. Priority is given to Federal Pell Grant recipients.

Federal Work-Study (FWS): A federal program offered and administered by the institution that provides opportunity for part-time employment to students with financial need to help pay their educational expenses. Students are responsible for finding qualified employment. Funds are paid out through a paycheck, as earned.

Financial Aid Package: The offer of financial assistance you will receive, once need analysis has been completed. Financial Aid Packages may include a combination of merit-based scholarships, grant money, work study, and student loans.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA): The Department of Education requires families to file a FAFSA in order to be eligible for federal aid programs, including Unsubsidized Direct and Parent PLUS Loans. The FAFSA may be completed after October 1st, for the following school year. (For example, the 2020-2021 FAFSA may be completed as of October 1st, 2019.) The FAFSA will collect federal tax data from two years prior; see the entry on “Prior-Prior Year” for more details. Some states use the FAFSA as their application for state grant money; check [here](#) for your state’s deadline. Dickinson’s FAFSA code is 003253.

Gift Aid: Funds awarded to the student that do not have to be repaid, unless the student fails to meet certain criteria, such as a service requirement that is specified as a condition of the gift aid or not completing the period for which the aid was awarded. Gift aid can include awards with titles such as grants, scholarships, remissions, awards, waivers, etc. Gift aid can be awarded based upon many factors, including (but not limited to) financial need, academic excellence, athletic, musical, and/or theatrical talent, affiliation with various groups, and/or career aspirations.

Grant: Gift Aid that is typically based on financial need.

Independent Student: On the FAFSA, an independent student is not required to report parent financial information. Guidelines for dependency status can be found [here](#).

Indirect Costs: Estimated expenses in the Cost of Attendance that are not paid directly to the institution.

Institutional Job Capacity: Administered by the institution that provides opportunity for part-time employment to students with financial need to help pay their educational expenses. Students are responsible

for finding qualified employment. Funds are paid out through a paycheck, as earned.

Master Promissory Note (MPN): The document you must sign prior to obtaining a student loan. The MPN will outline the terms of the loan including the interest rate, loan period, repayment guidelines, and much more. Students must complete the MPN for any Direct Subsidized, Unsubsidized, or institutional loans they accept.

Merit Scholarship: A form of grant money awarded based on demonstrated academic achievement, community involvement, and extracurricular talent. Merit scholarships are not need-based. Learn about Dickinson's Merit Scholarships [here](#).

Need: The student's Cost of Attendance minus their Expected Family Contribution, or Family Financial Responsibility (if applicable).

Need-Based Aid: Financial assistance offered on the basis of a family's demonstrated need. May include institutional grants, Pell grants, Supplemental Educational Opportunity grants, work study, and federal loans.

Need-Sensitive: Toward the end of the admissions process, we find it most reasonable to be sensitive to need as we select candidates for admission. Rather than admit students whose need we cannot meet, and ask them to take on cumbersome educational loans, we strive to make a Dickinson education affordable for every admitted student.

Net Price: Amount of direct and indirect costs remaining after all Gift Aid is applied. Net price can be covered through a variety of sources, including savings, income, and education loans.

Net Price Calculator: Provides an estimate of your need-based aid eligibility at Dickinson. Be as accurate as possible, and follow the instructions carefully as you fill in the [calculator](#).

Non-Custodial Parent CSS Profile: If your natural parents are divorced, your custodial parent's information will be included on the FAFSA and CSS Profile. Your non-custodial parent will be asked to provide financial information through the College Board.

Number in College: The number of dependent children in your parent's household, who are enrolled at least half-time as matriculated students in a degree- or certificate-seeking program, at a Title IV-eligible institution.

Prior-Prior Year: The FAFSA will collect federal tax data from two years prior; for 2020-2021, the FAFSA calculation will be based on 2018 tax returns, but will still request information on current assets, household size, and number of students in college. Whenever possible, we encourage families to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to complete the FAFSA.

Private Educational Loan: Available through private lenders such as banks and credit unions, these loans provide financing options to families paying for higher education. Our historic lender list is represented through [ELMSelect](#).

Program Level: Level of the degree-granting program in which a student is enrolled. Program levels may include undergraduate (students seeking an associate degree, an undergraduate certificate, or a baccalaureate degree); post-baccalaureate (such as teacher certification); or graduate (students working on a master's degree, graduate certificate, doctorate, or professional degree). The amounts and types of financial aid for which a student is eligible is determined, in part, by their program level.

Scholarship: Gift Aid that is typically based on merit, such as, academic excellence, talent, affiliation with various groups, or career aspirations or a combination of merit and need.

Self-help: An institution's expectation that a student contribute toward their education using a combination of loans, student employment such as Federal Work-Study, and/or summer savings.

Stafford Loan: Another name for the federal [Direct Loan](#) offered to student borrowers.

Tax Account Transcript: Similar to a tax return transcript but includes a running total of the individual's tax account.

Tax Return Transcript: The official receipt of tax return processing from the IRS. A transcript is available based on calendar year. Visit the [IRS- Get Transcript](#) page to request your tax year transcript.

Title IV Eligible: Determines if the student and the institution are eligible to receive federal need-based financial aid. Basic eligibility criteria include demonstrated financial need, enrollment in an eligible degree program, U.S. citizenship or eligible non-citizenship, and more. Please visit [this helpful graphic](#) to determine if you are eligible.

Unmet Need: The student's Cost of Attendance, minus their Expected Family Contribution or Family Financial Responsibility (if applicable), less any need-based aid received, such as Gift Aid, Federal Work-Study or Federal Direct Subsidized Loans.

Verification: A federally mandated process to confirm the accuracy of data provided by selected applicants on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). To complete the verification process, the student, their parent(s), or spouse, if applicable, are required to provide certain documents to the school for review. If the documentation the student provides the institution doesn't match what was reported on the FAFSA, verification can result in changes to the student's financial aid eligibility, and/or financial aid offers.