Understanding Your Financial Aid Offer



Your financial aid offer is based on the information provided on the CSS PROFILE and FAFSA. This publication gives further details to assist you in understanding the types of aid you may have qualified for, as outlined in your financial aid offer.

Please also review the back of your offer letter for important messages pertinent to your financial aid.

Cost of Attendance

The cost of attendance, which is listed on your financial aid award, is an estimate of the total costs associated with attending Dickinson for one year. It includes both direct costs (tuition, fees, room and meal plan) and indirect costs (books, supplies, personal and travel expenses). You will be billed for direct costs; indirect costs do not appear on the bill. If you are not covered under a U.S. health insurance policy, you also will be billed for student health insurance (estimated at \$2,000).

Grants/Outside Scholarships

(Gift aid that does not have to be repaid)

Federal Pell Grant: Your eligibility for a Pell Grant is determined by the U.S. Department of Education using the information provided on your FAFSA. The Pell Grant will be finalized after you submit verification materials to the college and any necessary corrections have been made to your FAFSA.

FSEOG (Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant): A federal grant that is available to high-need Pell Grant recipients.

Dickinson Grant: Need-based funds from the college that do not need to be repaid.

Receipt of Outside Scholarship or Loan: You must notify the financial aid office when you receive outside scholarships from nongovernmental sources, such as local organizations. The financial aid office must include that assistance as a part of your financial aid package. Outside scholarships first will fill any unmet federal financial need. The financial aid package then will be adjusted by decreasing self-help (loan and/or work). Dickinson grants and scholarships will not be affected unless the student's total gift aid exceeds our cost of attendance.

Adjustment for Unanticipated Federal or State Grant: When an unanticipated federal or state grant is received after your financial aid package has been developed, your Dickinson grant will be reduced by the amount of the new award. Ordinarily, total grant/scholarship aid from federal, state and institutional sources will not change.

Estimated State Grant: If an estimated state grant is listed on your award, be sure to complete any supplemental state grant application required by your home state. Our estimate is based upon the information that you submitted to Dickinson combined with our experience of states' previous awarding practices; it does *not* reflect an official notification by the granting agency. If actual state grants are higher or lower than our estimate, your Dickinson grant will be adjusted by that amount. However, if state grant funds are lost or reduced because you submitted a late, incomplete or inaccurate application, your estimated state grant will be removed from your package and the resulting gap will not be covered by Dickinson grant assistance.

Receipt of Tuition Remission or Assistance: Tuition benefits due to employment (either yours or your parents') are not treated in the same way as outside scholarships. Instead, the tuition benefit will reduce your cost of attendance, and eligibility for need-based aid (including Dickinson grants) will be calculated on the reduced need. Students receiving a full-tuition benefit will not be eligible for Dickinson grant assistance.

Federal Loans

(Financial assistance that must be repaid)

Federal Direct Loan: Loan funds provided to the student by the U.S. Department of Education, through the school. Repayment of principal begins six months after the borrower ceases to be a student on at least a half-time basis. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the annual application. There are two types of Federal Direct Student Loans: subsidized and unsubsidized. Students with financial need can qualify for a subsidized loan, and the government pays the interest on the loan while the student remains enrolled at least half time. Students who don't demonstrate financial need qualify for an unsubsidized loan and interest accrues while the student is in school.

 The current interest rate for a Subsidized Direct Loan is 4.53%** with a 1.059%** origination fee. Interest does not accrue while students are enrolled at least half-time. The current interest rate and origination fee for an Unsubsidized Direct Loan are the same, but interest will accrue while students are enrolled.

Federal Direct PLUS (Parent) Loan*:

A federal loan program designed to help parents fund college costs not covered by financial aid. Parents must not have an adverse credit history in order to qualify. These loans currently carry a 7.08%** fixed interest rate with a 4.236%** origination fee. Generally, repayment begins within

60 days after the loan funds have been disbursed, although deferment of repayment is available upon request. Interest continues to accrue during deferment. The FAFSA must be completed before a PLUS loan can be processed.

- * Please begin submitting loan applications in June. We will start processing loans midsummer. Early loan applications in particular may create problems for families because some credit checks will expire before we are able to process the loan. Please check www.dickinson.edu/financialaid for information regarding the loan application process.
- **Subject to change. Interest rates and origination fees for 2020-21 will be determined in July.

Federal Work-Study

(Financial assistance that must be earned)

Your financial aid offer letter may include an opportunity to work on campus through the Federal Work-Study (FWS) Program. In most cases, first-year students are employed by Dining Services. You will receive additional information this summer and during Orientation.

KEEP IN MIND:

 The work-study amount listed on your award letter reflects the maximum you may earn for the academic year. You may earn all or any portion of that amount depending on the number of hours you arrange to work with your departmental supervisor.

- Most students will earn \$8.50 an hour.
- To earn \$2,500 you would have to work approximately 12 hours per week throughout the academic year.
- The money you earn will be deposited in your personal bank account every two weeks and may be used to pay for any education-related expenses. Since earnings are paid directly to you, the work-study

amount listed on your award letter will not be deducted from your Dickinson bill. You

may, however, choose to apply your work-study earnings to your student account at any time.

The decision of whether to work will not affect your other financial aid awards. However, if you choose not to work, you and your parents will be responsible for any personal expenses your student employment might have covered.

Financial Aid Renewal

Eligibility for need-based financial aid is determined annually based on each year's FAFSA analysis. If additional grant assistance is sought as a result of changes in financial circumstances, then you must submit a new CSS profile.

Changes that can impact your need-based aid include:

- A significant increase or decrease in family income
- The number of siblings in college
- The number of family members in your household
- A significant increase or decrease in parent or student assets
- · Change in parental marital status

Dickinson Resources

Office of Financial Aid

Telephone: **717-245-1308** Fax: **717-245-1972**

Email: finaid@dickinson.edu

Web: www.dickinson.edu/financialaid

- General Questions/Appointment Scheduling: Diane Morris, administrative assistant finaid@dickinson.edu
- General Questions/Loan Questions: Carolyn Thompson, loan coordinator loans@dickinson.edu

College Financial Planning & Scholarship Search

All Dickinson prospective students and families have free access to iGrad's Financial Literacy and Career Planning tools via https://dickinson.igrad.com

Financial Aid Counseling

- Last names beginning with A D:
 Ruth Cramer, senior associate director
- Last names beginning with E J:
 Anders Hansen, counselor
- Last names beginning with K O:
 Christopher Ackley, assistant director
- Last names beginning with P T:
 Erica Burg, associate director
- Last names beginning with U Z:
 Leah Young, director

Nelnet Campus Commerce

BorrowSmart Counseling

Parent Loan (PLUS) and/or Monthly Payment Plan and Combination Options

- 888-216-4269
- dickinson.afford.com