

IX. FINANCIAL AID OFFICE & STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES

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The Messiah University Financial Aid Office and the Student Financial Services Office

Messiah University has realigned Financial Aid and Student Financial Services (student account functions) in order to maximize service delivery to students, streamline processes and eliminate redundancies. Both offices are located on the third floor of the Kim S. Phipps Admissions and Welcome Center.

Both offices are prepared for consultation with students and their parents planning to finance a college education, and each office can:

- Discuss general financial aid questions
- Assist with Financial Aid requirements
- Help find scholarships
- Assist with FERPA, Privacy Word, and Parent Access

The **Student Financial Services Office** is better equipped to help students and parents with:

- eBill questions
- Financial Counseling
- Discuss various payment options, including the monthly payment plans, 529 Payments
- Questions related to billing, the monthly payment plan, other student account topics, and basic financial aid questions:
- Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Contact: studentfinsvcs@messiah.edu or 717-691-6004

The **Financial Aid Office** is better equipped to help students and parents with:

- Questions about adjustments to the financial aid package
- Questions about special circumstances that apply to the student's financial aid eligibility
- Question on policies, rules and regulations for institutional and all other financial aid programs
- Questions related to the management of financial aid programs and individual student eligibility
- Hours: Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Contact: finaid@messiah.edu or 717.691.6007

The items addressed in the rest of this document are best referred to Financial Aid Office staff.

Financial Aid Policies

Each year, the Financial Aid Office publishes a webpage entitled Financial Aid Policies. This information contains many more details about financial aid policies and procedures than can be included in the Advising Handbook, and contains updates, which occur between publications of the Handbook. The combination of these publications should give each student the opportunity to be well informed about the financial aid policies which affect them. This information is available on the Financial Aid Office webpage at www.messiah.edu/info/21385/policies_and_resources- choose appropriate year.

Institutional Forms of Financial Aid

Messiah University offers merit-based academic scholarships, scholarships based on a combination of merit and need, and tuition discounts.

Virtually all students begin their enrollment at Messiah University with either an academic scholarship or a need-based grant from Messiah. Many have more than one form of institutional aid, and most students receive this aid for four years of enrollment.

Basic forms of institutional financial aid with renewal criteria:

(Award Amounts for 2022-23) (You will see students with different amounts because award amounts change from year to year.)

Special Note Regarding Renewal Criteria: As of the end of the 2022-23 academic year, Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) will be the only academic criteria required for continued scholarship eligibility. No GPA requirements higher than the SAP standard will be required to continue to receive academic scholarships. A few exceptions will exist for students who have received academic scholarships funded by an endowed fund, or a direct gift, from a donor who establishes their own GPA requirements. Students who receive one of these scholarships will be informed of the specific GPA requirements for their scholarship(s).

Scholarship Name	Annual Amounts	Comments
Trustees' Scholarship	Full tuition in student's 1 st year	This scholarship does not adjust to full-tuition in future years; it remains at the amount of full tuition in the student's 1 st year
President's Scholarship	\$5,000	New students are awarded \$5,000 and can keep their Provost's Scholarship in combination with their President's Scholarship.
Provost's Scholarship	\$13,000 - \$16,000	The amounts vary depending on transfer vs first year status, and high school academic achievement.
Dean's Scholarships in various majors	Typically \$1,000	The various departments manage the renewal of these scholarships and have variations in their requirements. Most departments have some sort of performance standard in addition to a GPA requirement. Check with the department for renewal criteria.
Full Tuition Lloyd and Lois Martin Multicultural Scholarship	Full tuition in student's 1 st year	This scholarship does not adjust to full-tuition in future years; it remains at the amount of full tuition in the student's 1 st year
Lloyd and Lois Martin Multicultural Scholarship (Martin's Scholar)	\$5,000	New students are awarded \$5,000 and can keep their Provost's Scholarship in combination with their Martin Scholarship.
Faculty Scholarship	\$1,000-\$1,500	
Flowers Scholarship	\$2,500-\$3,000	
Messiah University Grant	\$100 - \$12,000	In addition to regular satisfactory academic progress, students must continue to have financial need.
Messiah University Scholarship	Typically \$1,000 - \$14,000, with some outliers	This amount varies quite a bit depending on what year the student started, and their level of financial need.
Merit Scholarship Recognition	\$1,000	We are no longer participating in the actual National Merit Scholar program, but we continue to recognize these students with a strictly

		institutional award.
Covenant Grant	\$500	Awarded to students who are members or regular attenders of Brethren in Christ congregations

Other Sources and Types of Financial Aid

Assistance is also available through federal, state, and private funds administered by the University in the form of grants, loans, and work study.

- Financial Aid can be in the form of gift aid (grants or scholarships), loans, and work.
- Students need to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in order to apply for most forms of financial aid (except for academic scholarships and institutionally funded jobs – Federal Work-Study recipients must file a FAFSA).

Role of Academic Advisors in Financial Aid

- Be sure to advise students to contact the Financial Aid Office if they express concerns regarding finances.
- Be aware that, while substantial financial aid is available to many students, there are situations where the student will need to borrow significant amounts of money to pay for their education.

Points to Remember When Advising Students

1. Students will have financial aid problems if they do not make Satisfactory Academic Progress (details below). **Please make sure the student understands that dropping classes could negatively impact future aid eligibility if the appropriate number of credits are not completed.** If uncertain, have the student check with the Financial Aid Office for specifics of their situation before you approve the dropping of classes.
2. As noted above, Messiah University will no longer enforce specific GPA requirements for scholarship continuation. All scholarship recipients will retain their scholarships regardless of GPA, as long as they meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress standard.
3. Students can appeal loss of financial aid (usually due to lack of SAP) for unusual circumstances OUTSIDE OF THEIR CONTROL. Typically this would be a medical issue, and always requires documentation of the situation.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

- All students (including international students) enrolled at Messiah University are subject to the academic standards of the University.
- The Higher Education Act of 1965 mandates institutions of higher education to establish minimum standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) for students receiving financial aid.
- In order to continue to receive financial aid, students must meet the SAP standard.

Visit the Financial Aid Office policies webpage at:

www.messiah.edu/info/21385/policies_and_resources

Choose the appropriate academic year and then navigate down the page to the undergraduate and graduate Satisfactory Academic Progress policies.