WELCOME

Congratulations Class of 2019! We are so excited that you will begin your journey with us this fall. Our office, Student Financial Services, will be here to assist you in managing your finances.

This guide outlines important information for the upcoming year & will likely answer many questions you may have regarding billing & financial aid.

STAY CONNECTED

EMAILS You will be assigned two email accounts; an OSU & OSU Med Center account. If you have not done so already, you can visit https://my.osu.edu/ to activate your name.# email account. All university publications & notices will be sent to your OSU email account.

Your College of Medicine correspondences, however, will be sent to your OSUMC Med Center account, which you will obtain by the end of the month. It is crucial that you monitor both accounts or forward your name.# to your OSUMC email by selecting “Change email Delivery” at https://my.osu.edu/ (preferred).

Emails will direct you to the Student Service Center (SSC) for questions or concerns, however, we are your primary contact & you should direct all inquiries to our office only!

BUCKEYE LINK Most of you are probably already familiar with our online student portal, Buckeye Link available at https://buckeyelink.osu.edu.

This go-to-site is where students log in to their Student Center to view your balance, register for classes, apply for residency reclassification, view your To Do List, manage financial aid, & so much more.

FOCUS ON FINANCES

AUTUMN TUITION & FEES Within the next few days, the fees will be finalized by the University’s Board of Trustees & posted online at http://registrar.osu.edu/FeeTables/MainFeeTables.asp.

As long as you are enrolled for the term, your individual Statement of Account (SOA) will be posted to your Buckeyelink Student Center page online by the end of this month.
**Financial Responsibility Statement** Ohio State requires all students “sign” a Financial Responsibility Statement each semester. A “Hold” is placed on your account preventing class registration until you agree to the terms & conditions of the statement by electronic signature through your Buckeyelink Student Center. For additional information, see [http://u.osu.edu/treasurer/bursar/policies/financialrespons/](http://u.osu.edu/treasurer/bursar/policies/financialrespons/).

**Student Health Insurance** Having health insurance is required for students enrolled at least half-time at the Columbus campus. You will be assessed a fee for Comprehensive Student Health Insurance Plan when you enroll every year. You have the option to waive the health insurance fee by providing proof of existing adequate coverage, increase coverage to cover a spouse, dependent, or family, or elect the university’s supplement. The WilceCare Supplement is designed to supplement your own coverage by providing access to the Wilce Student Health Center.

Change of coverage may occur during the year. If you experience a qualifying event causing you to lose coverage, such as aging off of your parent’s coverage, you can appeal to opt in to the university’s plan within 31 days. For additional Student Health Insurance, visit [http://shi.osu.edu/](http://shi.osu.edu/).

**Student Legal Services Fee** Each student is enrolled in the student legal services plan providing legal coverage & assistance by licensed, legal professionals right on campus. The fee is assessed only once during the academic year granting coverage from August 1st through July 31st. To opt out & waive, view [http://studentlegal.osu.edu/waive-coverage.html](http://studentlegal.osu.edu/waive-coverage.html).

**Mandatory Fees** There are various mandatory fees assessed each term that give you access to services around campus & in the community.

*COTA Fee* The Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) fee means unlimited use of COTA bus services for a minimal flat fee per term. Details at [http://registrar.osu.edu/policies/COTA_Fee.asp](http://registrar.osu.edu/policies/COTA_Fee.asp).

*Student Activity Fee* This fee is assessed to support programs that benefit all students like free on-campus entertainment, cultural & arts events, student organizations & clubs, & discounted tickets to sports, arts & cultural events in the Columbus community.

*Student Union Fees* All Columbus campus students are assessed a facility fee for the Ohio Union. The student fee helps fund the Ohio Union facility, student organization & student meeting space, & cutting-edge venues that support student programming.

*Recreational Fee* This fee provides support for all campus recreational sports facilities, programs & services. Students who are assessed the fee are automatic members of the recreational sports facilities & eligible for all member benefits. For more information go to [http://recsports.osu.edu](http://recsports.osu.edu).

**Loan Deferment** As a Med Student enrolled at least half time, you will be eligible for In-School Deferment for both your med school loans plus any previous federal loans received. During a deferment, you do not need to make payments towards your federal loans.

Notification of enrollment is sent to all the major loan servicers through the National Student Clearinghouse each semester. Enrollment will be verified only after a student reaches paid status for the term. Scheduled for August 18th, the university will verify your enrollment begin date as August 25th (consistent with the university’s academic calendar). If you have payments due before August 25th, you will either need to make the payment or contact your loan servicer to make arrangements.
Ohio does allow for residency reclassification for students committed to becoming Ohio residents. There are various residency reclassification guidelines but most of our students qualify for the C2 status. Primarily, to be eligible you have to live in Ohio for at least 12 months, you must document your ability to meet all education & living expenses with eligible income, & you have to update any state specific documents to Ohio. More information on C2 & reclassification options can be found at [http://registrar.osu.edu/Residency/index.asp](http://registrar.osu.edu/Residency/index.asp) online.

Some helpful tips to remember:

- **Budget!** Make sure you are able to pay all your expenses with your financial aid or with eligible income. If it was not taxed in Ohio or you did not have it as of August 2014, it’s probably not eligible! You can file a 2015 tax return next year (as a part-year Ohio resident) & receive a refund or receive monetary gifts from friends & family, you just can’t spend it!

- **Plan your vacations!** Your 12 month review period begins August 25th. You are permitted to leave the state for no more than 30 days during your review period. Trips are limited to 2 weeks at a time. Exceptions can be made for various service-learning trips or some externship or research opportunities with prior approval.

- **Pay your share!** You can remain on health insurance, auto insurance, or even cell phone plans with family members as long as you are paying your allotted portion of the bill. You can calculate your expected payment by determining the cost & dividing it by the number of individuals covered. Remember documentation is key so no cash transactions!

- **Sooner rather than later!** There are no hard deadlines for obtaining your Ohio Driver’s License, registering to vote in Ohio if you are a voter, or switching over your registration for a car solely in your name but waiting may yield doubt in your reclassification intentions.

- **Keep it in perspective!** If you are uncertain of whether a course of action may jeopardize your residency reclassification chances, ask yourself two questions:
  1) Does this show that I’m independent & self-sufficient?
  2) Does this show I’m committed to being an Ohio resident for more than the purpose of receiving the benefit of a state-supported education?

We are happy to answer general questions about the reclassification process & application. For more specific inquiries, please contact the Office of the University Registrar by email at registrar@osu.edu or by phone at (614)292-9330 (Option 7). A Residency Expert from the Office of the University Registrar will be presenting at orientation so have your questions ready!
Financial aid award offers have been posted on Buckeyelink for the 15-16 year (package covers Autumn 2015 to Spring 2016). Please log into your Student Center & review your financial aid eligibility TODAY by selecting “View Financial Aid,” the 2016 aid year, & the “Award Summary” tab.

- If you completed a FAFSA & do not have an award package available on your Student Center, you must contact our office to initiate awarding.

- If you did not complete a FAFSA & still want to be considered for financial aid, complete your FAFSA today & contact our office to initiate awarding.

**Cost of Attendance (COA)** Your Cost of Attendance (COA) is an estimate of all expenses associated with attending school for the academic year, including tuition & fees, books & supplies, & modest, reasonable estimate for living expenses. Student Financial Aid calculates standard budgets based on average cost for all students annually & this serves as your financial aid limit. If you are enrolled less than full-time (8 units or more) for any term, please contact our office to determine the impact to your COA & therefore, your aid eligibility.

Currently, the COA for 15-16 is:

- **$52,164 for residents**

- **$70,860 for nonresidents**

COA breakdown to follow after fees are finalized.

*Subject to change upon board of Trustees tuition & fee determination

**Grants & Scholarships** There will be a variety of opportunities available to you.

*Admission’s Scholarship* Offers have been accepted on your behalf & are set to disburse when all aid is released for each semester. You must meet renewal criteria to receive each year.

*Med Grant* To be considered for need-based funds, you must include your parental information on the FAFSA every year. This does not impact loan eligibility or residency reclassification. Apply early, funds do exhaust! Awards are accepted on your behalf & will disburse each semester.

*External Scholarships* Opportunities will be communicated directly by e-mail as well as through the regular MD2B e-newsletter circulated by the Student Life Office at the College of Medicine. Students are also encouraged to do a search on their own for external awards.

*COM Scholarships Application* Applicants are considered for several hundred donor funds awards to fund their M2-M4 years. The application opens every Spring & recipients are notified by email over the Summer & Autumn Semesters.

*University Scholarship Application* Albeit, the majority of awards are reserved for undergraduates, there are awards designated to Grad/Professional Students or nondescript awards based on need or special interest. The application will open late this year at [http://sfa.osu.edu/scholarships](http://sfa.osu.edu/scholarships) & is due on February 15th annually.
**LOAN OFFERS** Your Unsub loan offer & your Grad PLUS loan eligibility are listed on your Buckeye Link Student Center (log in & select “View Financial Aid,” the 2016 aid year, & the “Award Summary” tab). The priority date for the FAFSA is February 15th annually.

**Federal Stafford Unsubsidized Loan**

- Max Award for a 9 month program: $40,500 (or $20,250 per semester)
- Interest Rate: 5.84%*
- Origination Fee: 1.073%*
- Disbursement Amount: $40,065 for the year (or $20,032 per semester)

**Federal Graduate PLUS Loan**

- Max Award: COA - (ALL other awards) = PLUS application limit
- Interest Rate: 6.84%*
- Origination Fee: 4.292%*
- Disbursement Amount: Roughly $956 for every $1,000 requested

*Interest rates & origination fees are subject to change by the Department of Education

Interest will begin to accrue on loan funds once they pay out to your Statement of Account. You are not responsible for paying the interest while in school but you can expect to receive quarterly interest statements from your loan servicer with recommendations to make payments if possible. Loan origination fees are deducted from each loan disbursement; this fee is your “cost of doing business” with the federal government.

**ACCEPTING/REQUESTING LOANS** Actions steps must be taken to accept/request funds every year.

**UNSUB LOANS** Accepting your loan is a 3 step process:

1. Select the green “Accept/Decline” link on your “Award Summary” tab. Enter an amount in the “Accept” field that you wish to receive for the year. The amount that you request will be evenly disbursed over both the autumn & the spring semesters.
2. Complete a Sub/Unsubsidized Master Promissory Note by clicking the link on your “To Do List” or by visiting https://studentloans.gov directly.
3. Complete Entrance Counseling by clicking the link on your “To Do List” or by visiting https://studentloans.gov directly.
Need to change your awards? Don’t worry! Stop by & talk to us!

- **Accepted wrong amount?** We can correct the amount or the terms of your loan.

- **Accepted too much?** We can initiate a return of funds to the Department of Education, removing your obligation to pay back any interest or loan origination fees for that specific amount.

- **Didn’t accept enough?** Your full eligibility may not appear on your “Award Summary” page after your initial acceptance if you do not accept the full $40,500 but you can still obtain the additional funds remaining up to your Cost of Attendance. Unaccepted portions of Unsub can be revisited & accepted throughout the year by visiting our office or submitting an email request from your OSU or OSUMC account through the first Friday in April 2016.

**GRAD PLUS** Your eligibility is listed on your Student Center (select “View Financial Aid” & the 2016 aid year to view your PLUS eligibility on the Award Summary tab), however, you must visit [https://studentloans.gov](https://studentloans.gov) to “Request a Direct PLUS Loan” & complete your required “PLUS Master Promissory Note for Graduate/Professional Students”.

To accept your loan for your M1 year (preferred) select the loan period of 08/2015 to 5/2016.

**Do not select “I want to borrow the maximum Direct PLUS Loan…” on your request**

The request form does have a field that allows you to select the max but we require you to enter an amount. If MAX is selected, we will contact you directly requesting you confirm a specific amount via email, thus delaying processing & the disbursement of the funds.

You have until the first Friday in April 2016 to make an initial or additional request any eligible Grad PLUS funds up to your Cost of Attendance.

**APPEALS** Some expenses outside of the standard Cost of Attendance may warrant an increase to your COA & therefore, your PLUS eligibility. See our office for additional information.

**AID DISBURSEMENT & REFUNDS** Aid will appear as “Pending” on your account about a month before fees are due. Aid is then released to your Statement of Account to pay your fees around 7-10 days before classes start. If your aid exceeds your outstanding balance, the excess will be issued to you as a refund, by default, as a check mailed to your current address.

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<tr>
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<th>15-16 Tentative Disbursement &amp; Refund SCHEDULED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Autumn Financial Aid</td>
<td>August 2, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autumn Expected</td>
<td>August 6, 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Financial</td>
<td>December 27, 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Expected</td>
<td>December 31, 2015</td>
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**Set up Direct Deposit Today!**

The fastest, safest, most convenient method of receiving your refund is by Direct Deposit. This allows the funds to be electronically issued to a checking or saving account that you establish. To set up direct deposit, log into your Student Center & select “Account Refund” under the “Finances” section. Follow the prompts to set up an account with CASHNet.
**SELF PAY** If you are paying all or a portion of your tuition & fees out of pocket, log into your Student Center via Buckeyelink & select the green “Make A Payment” link under the Finances section in the middle of the page to explore your out of pocket payment options:

- **Electronic payments** - Make online payments from your checking or savings account using your routing & account number with no additional fees (*Preferred method*)

- **Credit cards** - Ohio State currently accepts Discover, Master Card, VISA & American Express; **Note:** A 2.75% non-refundable convenience fee is charged by the credit card company per transaction

- **Mailing a payment** - To mail a check or money order select the Mail a Payment button to generate a payment coupon; Sending payment without a coupon may result in delays in posting the payment to the account

- **Dropping off a payment** - Checks or money orders can be dropped off in person at 281 West Lane Avenue in the lobby of the Student Academic Services Building in the payment drop box located near the elevators

- **College Saving Plan (529)** – Initiate the withdrawal at least 4-6 weeks before the fee payment deadline. Make sure to have them include your Student ID number & use the following mailing address:

  The Ohio State University  
  Student Academic Services Building 2nd Floor  
  281 West Lane Ave  
  Columbus, OH 43210

  See [http://u.osu.edu/treasurer/bursar/payment/csp529/](http://u.osu.edu/treasurer/bursar/payment/csp529/) for more information.

- **Tuition Option Payment Plan (TOPP)** - TOPP allows students to divide their financial obligation over 3 installments for a $30 enrollment fee, which is due with your first installment payment. To join, select the “Payment Plan” tab under “Account Inquiry” in the “Finances” section of your Student Center. The TOPP schedule for 15-16 is as follows:

  1) **1st Installment:** August 18th
  2) **2nd Installment:** September 18th
  3) **3rd installment:** October 18th
AUTUMN IMPORTANT DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Financial Aid Disbursed To SOA</td>
<td>August 2, 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expected Direct Deposit</td>
<td>August 6, 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuition &amp; Fee Due Date</td>
<td>August 18, 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Late Payment Fee Assessed At $200</td>
<td>August 19, 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Late Payment Fee Increases To $300</td>
<td>September 5, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drop For Nonpayment</td>
<td>September 5, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-Enrollment Fee Of $300</td>
<td>September 12, 2015</td>
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* Subject to change. Corrections or updates will be posted at [http://registrar.osu.edu/registration](http://registrar.osu.edu/registration)

STUDENT INFORMATION RELEASE A student’s privacy is protected under the Family Education Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA). We do prefer to work directly with the student regarding your finances, however, students may select to release academic, financial aid, & account information to designees through the “Student Information Release” link in the “Personal Information” section of the Student Center.

Conversely, you also have the right to restrict the release of this information. Understand that this means we will not release any information about your account to anyone over email or phone, INCLUDING YOU.

RESOURCES

AAMC FINANCIAL INFORMATION, RESOURCES, SERVICES, & TOOLS (FIRST) FIRST provides a wealth of information to manage finances, understand loan repayment options, learn about types of loans available, & much more. Visit [https://www.aamc.org/services/first/](https://www.aamc.org/services/first/) to review the various publications for incoming & continuing medical students alike.

Federal Student Aid The Department of Education provides a step-by-step guide to financial aid from the application process to repayment plans. Also, students can receive up-to-date news on the politics of financial aid. Go to [https://studentaid.ed.gov](https://studentaid.ed.gov) for more details.

College of Medicine In addition to providing information on opportunities specific to The Ohio State University College of Medicine, you will be able to locate information about numerous financial education & planning sessions we host for students.

STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES We want all students to know that we welcome walk-ins any time (appointments available upon request for your convenience but are not required)!

Christine McDonough will be available in office every day & Trueshonda Carmicle will be available in office daily with the exception of Thursday.

The Ohio State University
College of Medicine

Student Financial Services The Ohio State University College of Medicine
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614-292-8771 Office / 614-688-5455 Fax

You Made It