WELCOME

Congrats Class of 2020! The start of a new school year is always an exciting time. This guide outlines important information for the upcoming year & will likely answer many questions you may have regarding billing & financial aid.

STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES

Rest assured we are here to help you on your journey to MD. STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES is located in the basement of Graves Hall in B043. Appointments are available upon request for your convenience but are not required. Walk-ins are welcomed anytime!

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

STAY CONNECTED

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

Your College of Medicine emails, however, will be sent to your OSUMC Med Center account, which you will obtain by orientation. It is crucial that you monitor both accounts or forward your name.# to your OSUMC by selecting “Change email Delivery” at 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 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

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 u.osu.edu/treasurer/bursar/policies/financialrespons.

TUITION & FEES Annually, tuition & fees for the upcoming year (Autumn-Summer) are finalized by the University’s Board of Trustees are posted online around July 1st at registrar.osu.edu/FeeTables/MainFeeTables.asp.

You were emailed instructions to register for the upcoming Autumn semester. Each term, you will receive a similar email from the Med Registrar. Your bill, or Statement of Account (SOA), will populate to your Student Center page mid-July for Autumn term, early December for Spring term, & mid-April for Summer term. It is imperative that you register early to avoid delays with your SOA & potentially, your financial aid.

Mandatory Fees There are various fees assessed that give you access to services around campus. See registrar.osu.edu/policies/feesexplanation.asp for additional fee explanations.

Student Activity Fee This fee is assessed to support programs that benefit all students like free on-campus entertainment, local cultural & arts events, & discounted tickets to sports. Learn more at ohiounion.osu.edu/get_involved/student_activity_fee/faq.

Recreational Fee This fee is automatic membership into all campus recreational sports facilities & entitles you to all member benefits & services. For more information go to recsports.osu.edu.

Student Union Fees All Columbus campus students are assessed a facility fee for the Ohio Union that helps fund the facility for student programming. Check it out at ohiounion.osu.edu!

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 registrar.osu.edu/policies/COTA_Fee.asp.

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 learn more about services or waiving coverage, visit studentlegal.osu.edu.

Loan Deferment You will be eligible for In-School Deferment for both your med school loans plus any previous federal loans received. During a deferment, you are not required to make payments towards your federal loans. To qualify, just register through Buckeye Link on-time! Notification of enrollment is sent to all major loan servicers through the National Student Clearinghouse each term. 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.
**STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE** Having health insurance is required for students enrolled at least half-time. You will be assessed a fee for Comprehensive Student Health Insurance Plan each term. Visit Buckeye Link Student Center page as soon as possible to:

1) Select the Comprehensive Student Health Insurance Plan for the year

2) Waive the Comprehensive Student Health Insurance Plan for the year by providing proof of your existing, adequate coverage during the Autumn Semester (or your first term of enrollment any academic year); not sure if your coverage measures up? Find out at shi.osu.edu/coverage-comparison-tools

3) Increase coverage to cover a spouse, dependent, or family

4) Or elect the university’s WilceCare Supplement

If you waive the university’s comprehensive plan but you have a high deductible, a high co-pay, or the Wilce Student Health Center is considered out of network for your insurance carrier, we strongly recommend opting in to the WilceCare Supplement. For $225 for the entire policy year, this is your safety net to ensure you can receive treatment in the campus area if needed. It is a pre-paid medical & prescription drug package for illness & injury services provided exclusively at Student Health Services at the Wilce Student Health Center. Out-of-state (& even some in-state) coverage may have limited access to health care due to narrow local health care provider panels & this could be a significant obstacle to your academic progress. The WilceCare Supplement allows a student to have convenient local access to care by OSU Student Health Services.

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 plan, you can appeal to opt in to the university’s plan at a prorated amount (depending on your enrollment date). You must act quickly: you only have **31 days of the event** to submit the Coverage Status Change Form & supporting documentation!

For more on Student Health Insurance, visit shi.osu.edu.

**RESIDENCY RECLASSIFICATION** Ohio does allow 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 for C2 reclassification 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 registrar.osu.edu/Residency/index.asp.

For questions about the reclassification process, requirements, & the application, please contact the Office of the University Registrar. A Residency Expert from the Office of the University Registrar will also be presenting at orientation so have your questions ready!
FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid award offers are posted to your Buckeye Link Student Center page for the upcoming 2016-2017 year (package covers Autumn 2016 to Spring 2017). Please log in to your Student Center & review your financial aid eligibility TODAY by selecting "View Financial Aid," the 2017 aid year, & the “Award Summary” tab.

☐ If you completed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at fafsa.ed.gov & 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. The COA includes tuition & fees, books & supplies, & a 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 for all scholarships, grants, & loans. If you anticipate enrolling less than full-time for any term, your Cost of Attendance will need to be reduced. Please contact our office to determine the impact to your aid eligibility.

For your M1 year, the COA covers the 9 month period of enrollment from Autumn to Spring (08/08/2016 – 05/07/2017).

☐ $50,968 for residents

☐ $71,582 for nonresidents

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

SCHOLARSHIPS Opportunities will have differing eligibility criteria & deadlines so make sure you read our emails & apply on-time!

Admission’s Scholarship All 16-17 offers have been extended. The funds are set to disburse when aid is released each term. You must meet the renewal criteria to receive each year.

External Scholarships Opportunities will be communicated directly to students by e-mail from our office or 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 Spring & recipients are notified through Autumn.

University Scholarship Application Albeit, the majority of awards are for undergraduates, there are awards designated to Grad/Professional Students or nondescript awards based on need or special interest. The application will open in the fall at sfa.osu.edu/graduate-students/about-aid/types-of-aid/scholarships & is due on February 1st annually.
GRANTS A grant is aid that does not have to be paid back. You must exhibit a high financial need to qualify for grant funds.

MED Grant You were considered for the Med Grant only if you completed your FAFSA early & included your parental information. The award ranges from $1500 to $8500 for the M1 year. The Med Grant is accepted on your behalf & will disburse each semester. For future years, remember to include your parental information on the FAFSA. You also want to make sure you meet the university priority deadline because funds will exhaust!

LOANS To finance your medical education, you may have to explore loans. Loans are financial assistance that must be paid back to the lender with interest over time once you graduate, stop attending at least half time or leave college for any reason. You have a few options for loans:

Federal Student Loans With federal student loans, your lender is the Department of Education. You will be assigned a loan servicer to manage your repayment. By submitting a FAFSA, you are considered for the Federal Direct Stafford Unsubsidized Loan (Unsub Loan) & can you can request the Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan (Grad PLUS). In order to receive Grad PLUS, you must successfully pass a credit check or secure a credit worthy cosigner. OSU grad/professional students are not eligible for other programs including the Perkins Loan or the Federal Direct Stafford Subsidized Loan.

Private Loans With private loans, your lender is a private entity such as a bank or a credit union. Loan approval is generally based on credit worthiness & ability to repay. Each lender sets the terms of your loan & repayment. You can be awarded up to your COA minus any other financial aid awarded. Visit sfa.osu.edu/graduate-students/accept-aid/private-loans-about for details.

University Loans & Short-Term University Assistance The university has designed these programs for students with a temporary cash flow problem or unexpected financial difficulty related to educational expenses as the result of extenuating circumstance. Contact our office for additional information.

LOAN OFFERS Your Unsub loan offer & your Grad PLUS loan eligibility are listed on your Student Center (log in & select “View Financial Aid,” the 2017 aid year, & the “Award Summary” tab).

- The max award is set by the U.S. Department of Education & is based on your program, length of enrollment, & Cost of Attendance.

- The interest rates on federal student loans are subject to change by the Department of Education but are typically evaluated annually July 1. Both the Unsub & Grad PLUS loan have a fixed interest rate. Interest will begin to accrue on loan funds only once they pay out to your Statement of Account Interest. It will not capitalize (interest on interest) until you enter repayment. 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.

- The loan origination fees are deducted proportionately from each federal student loan disbursement you receive. This means the money you receive will be less than the amount you actually borrow. You are responsible for repaying the entire amount you borrowed & not just the amount you received.
Unsub Loan

- Interest Rate: 5.31%
- Origination Fee: 1.068%
- Max Award for a 9 month program: $40,500 (or $20,250 per semester)
- Max Disbursement Amount: $40,065 for the year (or $20,032 per semester)

Graduate PLUS

- Fixed Interest Rate: 6.31%
- Origination Fee: 4.272%
- Max Award: COA - (ALL other awards) = PLUS application limit

Example Disbursement Amount: $958 from a $1000 loan request

Accepting/Requesting Loans Actions steps must be taken to accept/request funds every year. There is no due date to accept by but, if you will be using the funds for Autumn 2016, you should complete all steps by July 20th. Begin on your Student Center Award Summary page (log in & select “View Financial Aid,” the 2017 aid year, & the “Award Summary” tab).

Unsub Loans

1. Select the green “Accept/Decline” link on your “Award Summary” tab. Enter amount in the “Accept” field that you wish to receive for the year (the amount will be evenly disbursed over all terms of enrollment)
2. Complete a Sub/Unsubsidized Master Promissory Note by clicking the link on your “To Do List” or by visiting studentloans.gov directly
3. Complete Entrance Counseling by clicking the link on your “To Do List” or by visiting studentloans.gov directly

Grad PLUS

1. You can view your PLUS eligibility on the Award Summary tab then log in at studentloans.gov & select “Apply for a PLUS” to make your request
2. Complete a PLUS MPN for Grad/Professional Students by clicking the link on your “To Do List” (will post after loan is processed) or by visiting studentloans.gov directly
3. Completing Entrance Counseling is required but a previous submission for the Unsub Loans is acceptable; PLUS Counseling is only required if you have a cosigner

To accept your Grad loan for your M1 year (preferred) select the loan period of 08/2016 to 5/2017.
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, 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 but you can still obtain the additional Unsub of Grad PLUS funds remaining up to your Cost of Attendance. Unaccepted portions of your loans can be revisited & accepted throughout the year by visiting our office or submitting an email request from your OSU or OSUMC account through the April 15th 2017.

**Verification** Student Financial Aid makes request for additional information or documentation through the “To Do List” section of your Student Center. Your financial aid may be held until completed. Submit electronically or to our office by the specified due date (MPN & Entrance Counseling due dates are arbitrary; simply complete timely before disbursement).

**Aid Disbursement** The combined total of anticipated aid will appear as a single line item in the payments column of your Statement of Account (SOA) at least two weeks before fees are due. This “Pending Financial Aid” means that you have already secured this amount of financial aid & it will automatically disburse for the term. You will only see “Pending” aid before a term starts.

Aid is released & disburses to your SOA about a week before classes start. The “Pending Financial Aid” line item will disappear & each individual type of financial aid will show as its own line item.

**Refunds** 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.

**Set up Direct Deposit Today!**

**Direct Deposit** 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 in to your Student Center & select “Account Refund” under the “Finances” section. Follow the prompts to set up an account with CASHNet.

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<tr>
<th>16-17 Tentative Disbursement Schedule</th>
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<tr>
<td>Autumn Financial Aid Released/Disbursed To SOA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Autumn Expected Refund Issued</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Financial Aid Released/Disbursed To SOA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Expected Refund Issued</td>
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**Federal Aid Payment Permission** Your loans will disburse to pay your institutional charges such as tuition, program fees, technology & site-based fees, & housing & meal plan charges. For other charges on your Statement of Account, you must grant a one-time authorization to Ohio State if you want your loans applied to pay for such items, including Student Health Insurance, penalty & late fees, etc. To grant permission, complete the item on your “To Do List” through your Buckeye Link Student Center. If permission to pay other charges is not granted, it may result in a financial aid refund & outstanding balances due on your account.
**SELF PAY** If you are paying all or a portion of your tuition & fees out of pocket, log in to 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) 1\textsuperscript{st} Installment: August 18\textsuperscript{th}

  2) 2\textsuperscript{nd} Installment: September 18\textsuperscript{th}

  3) 3\textsuperscript{rd} installment: October 18\textsuperscript{th}

**M2 Aid** Prior-Prior Year (PPY) refers to a policy enabling students to file the FAFSA using tax information from two years ago. For the M2 year beginning Autumn 2017, you will file the FAFSA using taxes from 2015. Additionally, the FAFSA will be available for you to complete October 2016. We encourage every student to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool when completing the application if applicable & to include your parental information for consideration for MED Grant. This will not impact loan eligibility or residency reclassification.
AUTUMN IMPORTANT DATES

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<th>AUTUMN 2016*</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuition &amp; Fee Due Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>Late Payment Fee Assessed At $200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Late Payment Fee Increases To $300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drop For Nonpayment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Re-Enrollment Fee of $300 begins</td>
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* Subject to change. Corrections or updates will be posted at 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/ 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 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.