How to Apply for Financial Aid for the Public Health Practice Programs

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

For your first step to getting financial aid, fill out a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) to determine eligibility. Even if you are ineligible for federal aid (Approximately 98% of incoming graduate students qualify for a Stafford Loan), you should complete the FAFSA because you may be eligible for nonfederal aid from states and private institutions. If you regain eligibility during the award year, notify your financial aid administrator.

The Financial Aid Office no longer has printed applications for financial aid. Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply online. Once you have the results (SAR report), you will be eligible for federal loans and may also want to check out other avenues for tuition assistance. If you do not receive your Student Aid Report (SAR) within four weeks, call the federal processor at 1-800-433-3243 or check your status at [http://www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

Simple Instructions for the FAFSA

Collect the the documents you will need. Start with your social security number, driver’s license, most recent income tax return, bank statements, and investment records.

Print out the pre application worksheet. This allows you to work out some of the answers in advance: [http://www.studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/FAFSA.pdf](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/FAFSA.pdf)

Fill out the FAFSA online: [http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/complete001.htm](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/complete001.htm).


You **must** renew your FAFSA every year. Complete your renewal as soon after January 1st as possible. [http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/FOTWWebApp/complete004.jsp](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/FOTWWebApp/complete004.jsp)

Check your Financial Aid on OASIS?

OASIS is USF’s **On-line Access Student Information System**. OASIS allows you to access your information directly. After you have been accepted into the program, you will be able to use OASIS to view the financial aid loan programs you are eligible to accept. If you have remaining financial needs, you may apply for outside grants or private education loans to cover expenses. After you have accepted or declined your loans, you must check OASIS again to see if you have any outstanding requirements, such as signing an electronic promissary note. Use OASIS to update your e-mail address, to update your local mailing address, view your grades, class schedules, announcements, and more. The Office of Financial Aid communicates to you primarily through e-mail and OASIS instead of paper.

- Go to [https://usfonline.admin.usf.edu/pls/prod/twbkwbis_P_WWWLogin](https://usfonline.admin.usf.edu/pls/prod/twbkwbis_P_WWWLogin)
- Your Social Security Number (SSN) is your User ID and your six-digit Personal Identification Number (PIN) for access to the USF On-Line Student Information System (OASIS). When you are finished, click the Login button. If this is the first time you have accessed the system and do not yet have a PIN, enter your date of birth (for example, 070165). You will then be prompted to designate a new PIN number.
To Accept, Decline or Reduce Loans:

- Select the Financial Aid Menu;
- Choose “My Award & Loan Information;”
- Choose “Accept My Awards;”
- “Select Aid Year” Note: The financial aid year starts in Fall. If you are accepted for the spring term, you should look in the previous year.

To see Outstanding Requirements:

- Choose “Financial Aid” menu;
- Choose “My Requirements, Bookstore Authorizations and Deferments;”
- Select Aid Year
- Deferments are applied automatically and temporarily prevent assessment of late payment fees.

Subscribe to eDeposit

- From the main menu after you log in, click on “Subscribe to eDeposit” and follow instructions. The financial aid left over after automatically covering tuition and fees will be deposited in your bank account.
- eDeposit subscriptions take approximately 10 days to process with your bank. If you are to receive a refund before your eDeposit subscription has been approved, you will receive a printed check via United States Postal Service.

Awarding Guidelines

Financial aid is awarded as a “package,” usually combining more than one type of aid. The first award offer is mailed to you. Afterward, you are responsible for checking OASIS for revisions.

- You must accept your loan offers in OASIS to receive funds
- If you are new to USF, you may receive a conditional award offer, but may still need to check OASIS for information regarding completion of your file before final eligibility is established.
- All loans require you to sign a promissory note before funds can be disbursed. OASIS offers a list of recommend lenders because they have been successful in using USF’s electronic process. You may choose another lender; however, they must process electronic applications.

Federal Loans

Federal Stafford Loans

Approximately 98% of incoming students qualify for a Stafford Loan. Stafford Loans are either subsidized (the government pays the interest while you’re in school) or unsubsidized (you pay all the interest, although you can have the payments deferred until after graduation). Stafford loans for graduate students have higher loan limits than Stafford loans for undergraduate students. Many students combine subsidized loans with unsubsidized loans to borrow the maximum amount permitted each year. For additional information, visit [http://usfweb2.usf.edu/finaid/grad.htm](http://usfweb2.usf.edu/finaid/grad.htm)

Federal Perkins Loans

A Federal Perkins Loan is a low-interest (5%) loan for undergraduate and graduate students with exceptional financial need. Your school is your lender. The loan is made with government funds with a share contributed by the school. Depending on when you apply, your financial need, and the funding level of the school, you can borrow up to $5,000 a year. The total amount you can borrow is $30,000, including Federal Perkins Loans you borrowed as an undergraduate.
Other Fellowship and Grant Sources

http://www.lib.usf.edu/index.cfm A bibliography from USF Library: General survey of reference materials available on Grant and Foundation Sources
http://www.grantselect.com/ GrantSelect
http://www.lib.msu.edu/harris23/grants/3specpop.htm Grants for Minorities
http://www.grantsnet.org/ GrantsNet
http://www.asph.org/document.cfm?page=752 Association of Schools of Public Health
http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/ Grants from NIH