

## USF College of Pharmacy Financial Aid FAQs

1. Should you pay for help to fill out FAFSA?
  - a. No the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), is a FREE application and does not include an expense for completion. You should use the following link to complete your application [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
  - b. For the Pharm D program you are considered independent for the FAFSA. As a result you do not have to include your parents' information.
2. What is the FSA ID ?
  - a. Your FSA ID replaced the federal pin which was your "electronic" signature used to access your FAFSA. You should create your FSA id on the following website [www.fsaaid.ed.gov](http://www.fsaaid.ed.gov) .
3. How often should the FAFSA be completed?
  - a. The FAFSA should be completed every year that a student wishes to be considered for Federal financial aid. Additionally the FAFSA should be completed after October 1 prior to the upcoming school year (i.e. October 1, 2016 for the 2017-2018 academic year).
  - b. The priority deadline is January 1 2017.
  - c. USF FAFSA School Code-001537
4. How is financial aid eligibility determined?
  - a. Eligibility for most financial aid is based upon demonstrated need for the student and his/her family. Need is determined using the information reported on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
5. I receive no help from my parents and I live on my own. Does this qualify me as an independent student?
  - a. As graduate/professional student you are considered an "Independent Student" under the criteria of the Dept. of Ed. The level of support from parents or spouses will not affect this status.
6. Are there any requirements to receive federal financial aid?
  - a. Yes. A few of the eligibility requirements include:
    - i. A student must declare a major and be working towards a qualifying certificate or degree.
    - ii. A student must have earned a high school diploma or GED.
    - iii. A student must also be a US citizen or in some cases an eligible non-citizen (such as a non resident).
    - iv. If a student is in default or has an overpayment on a federal loan or grant he/she may not be eligible for any financial aid until that debt has been settled.
    - v. Males that are 18 years of age or older must also be registered with the Selective Service, unless born prior to 1960.
7. I need/received a Late Fee Waiver from the financial aid office, what happens if I don't pay when the waiver expires?
  - a. If a student is unable to make his or her tuition payment, a Late Fee Waiver should be requested from Financial Aid and completed, with the Associate Dean of Student Affairs & Assessment signature before the payment deadline. Late fee Waivers will not be honored after the deadline.

- b. When a student fails to pay their educational expenses, a late fee will be assessed. If the student's account remains in delinquency, the student will then be removed from class until full payment (Tuition & Fees, with Late Fee) is received.
8. I my financial aid disbursement is delayed, is it okay for me to pay out of pocket?
- Students are allowed to pay tuition and fee expenses out of pocket. Please refer to the "Tuition Assessment" communication from Records and Registration for the guidelines of payment submissions.
  - Make sure you have sufficient funds. Returned check will be assessed a fee. This will also delay your payment causing you to incur additional late fees.
9. Am I required to provide my parent(s) information on my FAFSA?
- As a graduate/professional student with the College of Pharmacy you are not required to provide your parents information.
10. Do I have to include my spouse's income information on the FAFSA?
- Yes, IF you are married on the day you are completing your FAFSA you must include your information and your spouse's information. This rule still applies, if the two of you filed your taxes separately.
11. I am divorced/separated. What should I include on my FAFSA?
- Divorced or students living separately from their spouse should not include his or her income in the FAFSA form. Only include income of your spouse if you are remarried.
12. What semesters does the FAFSA cover?
- The FAFSA covers the Fall, Spring and in some cases the trailing Summer semesters
  - Summer Enrollment
    - Financial Aid will not be awarded from the COP financial aid office.
    - For students wishing to take summer classes outside of COP, financial aid will only be awarded if you meet the institution's requirements. You will need to be degree/certificate seeking and enrolled at least half time to be considered for federal financial aid.
13. Will I receive federal or State grants?
- Federal Grants typically are not awarded to graduate professional students.
  - Bright Futures-Students with remaining eligibility may use these funds to pay for their Pharmacy education.
  - Florida Pre Paid may be used as reimbursement with approval.
14. What types of loans can I apply for?
- Unsubsidized and Graduate Plus loans may be used for professional and graduate students.
  - Both loans require the completion of separate Master Promissory Notes (MPN) and Online Entrance Loan Counseling. If these items are not completed loan funds will not disburse.
15. How often should I complete the MPN and Online Entrance Counseling?
- These items are required only once during your enrollment with an institution. If you change schools you will need to complete these items again.
16. Should I contact USF Office of Veteran Services for information regarding using Montgomery GI Bill, Post 9/11 GI Bill or other Veteran benefits to pay for Pharmacy School?
- Yes, you will need to contact the USF Office of Veteran Services (<http://www.veterans.usf.edu/index.asp>). Ph: (813)974-2291 Email : [vetserve@cchd.usf.edu](mailto:vetserve@cchd.usf.edu)

- b. If you are an out of state student wishing to use veteran benefits make sure that you meet the Florida residency requirement and if applicable, the disability status as well.
  - c. In addition to the on campus resources the provided link may also provide beneficial information for survivors and dependents of Veterans ([http://gibill.va.gov/benefits/other\\_programs/dea.html](http://gibill.va.gov/benefits/other_programs/dea.html)).
17. Do I have to repay my student loans while attending COP?
- a. No, federal unsubsidized loans received before July 1, 2012 will not go into repayment until 6 months after you have graduated or your enrollment drops below half time.
  - b. No, while attending USF COP, previously borrowed and newly requested loans will automatically go into In School Deferment.
  - c. If required by a loan servicer, In School Deferment forms should be submitted to Records and Registration to provide enrollment verification.
  - d. If a student borrows the Graduate Plus loan, he or she will need to complete an in school deferment form, as this loan goes into repayment as soon as it is disbursed.
18. How do I apply for scholarships?
- a. Complete the COP Scholarship application and provide the requested supportive documents before the application deadline.
19. Is there a limit on how much financial aid I can borrow?
- a. Students may only borrow up to the designated cost of attendance for the COP, during the academic year. The cost of attendance includes the estimated costs for tuition & fees, books & supplies, room & board, commuting, and personal expenses.
  - b. The lifetime borrowing aggregate for health professional students is \$224,000; this includes aid borrowed during undergraduate studies. This does not include any PLUS loan funds.
20. How do I apply for the Graduate Plus Loan ?
- a. Use the following link ([www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov) ) to complete the application, Grad Plus MPN and Entrance Loan Counseling (these required tasks are separate from your unsubsidized loans ). Upon submission students will know immediately if their application is approved or denied.
  - b. This loan is not renewed automatically. You must reapply every academic year if you wish to borrow these funds.
  - c. 180 Day Rule. Students should not apply more than 180 days before the start of the academic year. If the application is more than 180 days old, the credit approval is not longer valid, and the student will need to resubmit the application.
  - d. As for all awarded aid, the amount requested will be divided for to separate even disbursements.
21. Where do I send my tuition/fee payment ?
- a. At this time NO PAYMENTS can be made online to the College of Pharmacy. All payments (Check or Money order only) must be mailed the the Orlando Payment Center. Payments must be submitted twice during the academic year. The first payment will be due at the beginning of the academic year and the second payment will be due during the middle of the academic year.
    - i. Address : USF Health Payment Center, PO Box 864300,Orlando FL 32886-4300, please make sure you use the full provided address to ensure that your payment is received. Include your U ID number to receive credit for the payment. Students re encouraged to send payments with postal tracking.

22. What happens if I have a returned/ “bounced” check ?
- Students that have returned checks will be required complete a Returned Check worksheet and to pay a \$25 fee, directly to USF. Please follow the instructions on the worksheet, as the address and procedure for payment submission differ from the USF College of Pharmacy policy. This is also covered in the Payment Resolution section of the USFCOP student handbook.
23. Where can I find contact information for my Loan Servicer ? Why is this important ?
- Please find your loan servicer’s information on [www.nslsds.ed.gov](http://www.nslsds.ed.gov) . This is important to know, because you must repay your loans upon departure from USFCOP.
  - Additionally when requested In School Deferment forms must be completed with your loan servicer. Please obtain the necessary document from your loan servicer and see Mr. Whitehead, our Record and Registration Specialist for assistance with your enrollment verification. Otherwise you run the risk of your previous and newly borrowed loans going into premature repayment.
24. How will I receive my financial aid ?
- Financial Aid will be disbursed twice within the academic year.
  - Financial Aid disburses directly to the student. The student is responsible for using their awarded financial aid to pay their tuition and fees.
  - If a student has an active Direct Deposit their aid will be received electronically, otherwise a paper check will be mailed to the local permanent mailing address.
    - Beginning May 2 2016 the University Controller’s Office will only process paper checks once a week.
    - Please be advised that if you are an Out of State student, not using direct deposit and your only listed address is outside of Florida, your check will be mailed to that listed address.
25. I moved, how do I update my address ?
- For all Financial Aid concerns you will need to update your information within OASIS. You will also need to provide this updated information to Mr. Whitehead, within Records & Registration. These forms are on the USFCOP web page.
26. If I borrow more financial aid than I need, can I return the excess funding ?
- Yes, you will need to complete a Request to Return Loan Funds Worksheet in the Financial Aid Office no later than 14 days from your disbursement date.
  - The amount being returned cannot be greater than the amount that was disbursed .
  - USF will return the funds on the student’s behalf and pay the associated fees. The student will need to make their payment payable to USF.
27. When does financial aid disburse?
- Aid does not begin disbursing until classes have started. Students should expect the disbursement process to run for at least the first two weeks of classes.
28. I have an active Direct Deposit established from USF undergrad, should I reapply for my Pharmacy enrollment?
- No, your Direct Deposit will remain activated. You will need to make sure that your banking account information is up to date.
29. Are transfer students required to resubmit financial aid documents?
- Students must resubmit any documents pertaining to Citizenship, Marital status, IRS Income Verification, etc.

- b. Transfer students will also need to resubmit the MPN and Online Entrance Counseling.
30. Do I have to have an appointment to see a Financial Aid Advisor?
- a. At this time appointments are not mandatory. If you have a pressing concern, making an appointment may be to your benefit.
  - b. For appointments, students should use the E-Scheduler links provided below :
    - i. [Current Student](#)
    - ii. [Prospective Student](#)
31. How may I contact the Financial Aid Office?
- a. You may contact the USF HEALTH Financial Aid team via [Email](#)
  - b. Walk in services are available Monday – Friday from 8:00 to 4:30 – we are located in the WELL
  - c. Mailing Address  
University of South Florida  
USF Health Financial Aid Office, MDC Box 42  
12901 Bruce B. Downs Blvd.  
Tampa FL 33612-4799

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