



# 2023-24 Financial Assistance Information

# 2023-24 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

The purpose of financial aid is to provide funding resources to students who otherwise would be unable to pursue a postsecondary education. The primary responsibility for meeting University costs lies with students and their families.

## General Eligibility Requirements

To receive federal Title IV financial assistance, all students must be admitted to the University, be enrolled in a degree Program of Study, be in good academic standing, and be making satisfactory academic progress. Students who are [Accepted with Specifications](https://www.gcu.edu/sites/default/files/media/documents/academics/handbook/2023-24/university-policy-handbook-fall-2023-v2.pdf) (<https://www.gcu.edu/sites/default/files/media/documents/academics/handbook/2023-24/university-policy-handbook-fall-2023-v2.pdf>, p.52) are eligible for federal financial assistance based on the University's admission policy. Federal eligibility regulations require financial aid recipients to be U.S. citizens or eligible non-citizens, owe no money on a federal student grant, and not be in default on any federal student loans.

## Financial Aid Application Process

Annually students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) which is the first step in determining financial need. The application can be accessed at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. If a student does not have access to the Internet, a paper FAFSA may be obtained directly from the Department of Education. The University does not require any of the supplemental forms processed by the College Scholarship Service (CSS) or American College Testing (ACT), for which there is a fee charged.

The results of the FAFSA will be sent electronically to the financial aid department. Eligibility will be determined, and funds will be awarded after receipt of all required documentation. Before any federal loans can be awarded, both a Master Promissory Note (MPN) and Entrance Counseling must be completed on the Department of Education's website, <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa> under **Loans and Grants**.

## Verification

Based on information reported on the FAFSA, the Department of Education will require certain applicants to complete the verification process before becoming eligible for TIV aid. If a student is selected for verification, the University will request that the student provide all required documentation which may include, but is not limited to:

- IRS Tax Return Transcript
- Verification of household size and number in college
- Documentation of high school completion
- Government Issued Photo Identification
- Statement of Educational Purpose

Additional documentation may be required to complete the verification process. All paperwork must be submitted as soon as possible but no later than the earlier of 120 days after the student's last day of enrollment or the end of the award year which runs through the month of September. Federal awards will not be processed until the verification process is completed.

## Preference/Deadline Dates

Both new and returning students are strongly encouraged to submit initial or renewal FAFSA applications as soon as possible each year as some types of financial aid have limited funding and those students whose FAFSA applications are delayed run an increased risk of receiving reduced awards. Effective with the 17/18 award year, students will be able to complete the FAFSA as early as the preceding October of the award year. Only students who have applied for admission to Grand Canyon University will be issued a financial aid offer notice that's also available on the GCU Student Portal.

## Financial Need and Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

Aid for most federal funding is awarded based on financial need. The EFC is a measure a family's financial strength and indicates how much of students' and students' families (for dependent students) financial resources should be available to help pay educational costs.

The EFC is calculated from information reported on the FAFSA using a formula established by law. Family income and assets are considered in determining the EFC along with household size and number of family members attending a postsecondary school. The EFC can be found on the Student Aid Report (SAR) which is the official document produced from the information supplied on the FAFSA. To determine financial need for federal student aid programs the EFC is subtracted from the Cost of Attendance (COA) (<https://www.gcu.edu/tuition/cost-attendance>) which is an estimated amount it will cost to attend school for an academic year.

Estimated costs include tuition and fees, room and board, allowances for books, supplies, transportation, and personal expenses. Federal grants and other financial aid are used to meet financial need.

Upon completion of all required paperwork, Title IV funds will be awarded. A financial aid awards will then be available on the student's portal.

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Any changes made to original reported information on the FAFSA may result in a change in financial aid award amounts. If the FAFSA is selected for verification, any changes made during the verification process may also change financial aid award amounts.

## Traditional Academic Calendar

The majority of aid for the Traditional campus is processed using the Scheduled Academic Year calendar which consists of a Fall and Spring term (semester) with aid for a Summer term optional. To receive maximum financial aid benefits, undergraduate students must be enrolled full-time (minimum 12 credits per term). Undergraduate students enrolled less than full-time may be eligible for prorated amounts of federal aid depending on the funding source. Undergraduate programs require enrollment of at least six credits per term for federal loan eligibility. Courses taken at other colleges do not count towards determining enrollment status at Grand Canyon University for financial aid/scholarship purposes.

Students who receive any institutional scholarships (i.e., academic, departmental, endowed, and/or merit) must maintain a continuous fulltime enrollment status. Payments of financial aid awards are made in two equal disbursements following the appropriate payment period rules.

## Nontraditional Academic Calendar (Online and Cohort)

Nontraditional campus aid is processed using the Borrower-Based, Non-term academic calendar. An academic year for undergraduate programs is defined as a minimum of 24 earned credits and 30 instructional weeks. The academic year for master's programs is defined as a minimum of 16 earned credits and 32 instructional weeks. Doctoral programs utilize an academic year definition of 12 earned credits and 32 instructional weeks.

An academic year begins with participation in the first eligible course of a degree program and ends when a student successfully completes both the credits and instructional weeks requirements. An academic year has no calendar time constraints and continues through periods of non-attendance that are less than 180 days until both the credit and weeks requirements are met.

The academic year is divided into two payment periods (terms). The first payment period consists of half of the credits and instructional weeks as defined in the academic year. The second payment period begins when a student has successfully completed the first payment period requirements and has continued on into the next scheduled course. Aid is packaged and disbursed using these definitions. Payments of financial aid awards are made in two equal disbursements following the appropriate payment period rules.

## Inform the Office of Financial Aid

Students who receive additional outside assistance must report this fact to the Office of Financial Aid through their assigned Student Services Counselor. Students who have received any Title IV aid from a prior school or are currently receiving Title IV aid at another institution while attending Grand Canyon University must also notify the Office of Financial Aid through their assigned Student Services Counselor as this other source of funding may affect students' eligibility to receive maximum Title IV aid with GCU.

## Student Responsibilities

All students should do the following:

- Accurately complete and return all applications, required documentation, verification forms, and any additional information that is requested by any GCU department or any other agency providing financial assistance. Errors or omissions may delay the awarding and disbursement of eligible funds. Financial aid forms are available online at <https://www.gcu.edu/financial-aid/fafsa>.
- Read and understand all documentation and agreements that are signed and submitted to any department or agency.
- Review the financial aid offer and all other notices issued regarding the responsibilities and conditions that must be adhered to by students receiving financial aid.
- Understand what portion of the financial aid package is need based aid (such as Grants, Scholarships and Subsidized loans) and what portion is non-need-based aid (such as Unsubsidized, Parental PLUS and Graduate PLUS loans). The types of Financial Aid (Loans, Grants, and Work-Study Programs) can be found on <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types#loans>. If any portion of the aid is in the form of a student loan, understand the total amount of the loan, the interest rate assessed to the amount borrowed, the repayment schedule, the timeframe of the repayment schedule, and the start date of the repayment schedule. For more information about Loan Repayment, please visit Student Aid > Loan Repayment at <https://studentaid.gov/> or GCU Loan Repayment Support at <https://students.gcu.edu/student-resources/student-loan-repayment>.
- Notify the loan servicer of any changes to personal name, address, and enrollment status.
- Review and understand the amounts pertaining to the cost of attendance and the Course Tuition Refund Policy for Grand Canyon University as stated in the Financial Services section.
- Review and comply with all rules and regulations pertaining to academic, financial, and University conduct policies.

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- Understand that any intentional misrepresentation of information provided on applications or documents submitted for federal financial aid is a violation of law and is considered a criminal offense subject to penalties under the U.S. Criminal Code and will be reported to the Office of Inspector General (OIG).

## Satisfactory Academic Progress

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) is defined as a student's progress toward successful completion of his or her degree requirements and includes two equal components that are referred to as qualitative and quantitative measurements. The qualitative component evaluates the enrollment cumulative GPA and determines if the student is meeting the minimum GPA requirements set forth for the specific academic level and academic program. The quantitative component evaluates the student's progression towards completing his or her Program of Study within a measured maximum timeframe that cannot exceed 150% of the published length of the program.

SAP calculations are performed at the completion of the intervals listed below and are calculated using both the GCU enrollment cumulative GPA and earned credit hours at each review time period.

- Nontraditional Undergraduate, Graduate and Doctoral Students: At the completion of every payment period. Please see Nontraditional Academic Calendar (Online and Cohort) section
- Traditional Undergraduate and Graduate Students: After each semester

If a grade change for a course within the designated interval occurs within 35 days of an interval being completed, SAP will be recalculated.

Transfer credits (TR), provided they meet degree requirements, will be counted as both attempted and earned credit hours. Failed grades (F), Incompletes (I), and Withdrawals (W) will be counted as attempted credit hours but will not count as earned credit hours. Credit hours earned for repeated coursework, in addition to the original credit hours, will be counted as both attempted and earned credit hours.

## Warning

Undergraduate students are placed on warning if their enrollment cumulative GPA drops below 2.0 or if they have not earned at least 67% of the cumulative credit hours attempted at each review time period as stated above.

Masters and Doctoral students are placed on warning if their enrollment cumulative GPA drops below 3.0 or if they have not earned at least 67% of the cumulative credit hours attempted at each review time period as stated above.

The warning period provides for an additional interval as described above. The warning status will be removed when the minimum enrollment cumulative GPA specified above is regained, and/or student earns 67% of the credit hours attempted. If a student fails to meet the minimum GPA or is not earning at least 67% of attempted credit hours in the subsequent interval, the student will be placed on suspension.

## Support for Students on Warning Status

Students who are notified that they are on financial aid probation are encouraged to contact their SSC to discuss strategies to assist in student success. The following resources are available to students for academic support.

### Tutorials, Demos and Other Resources

- Academic & Career Excellence (ACE)
- Student Success Center

### Student Quick Access - Categories

- Faculty Support for Students
- Student Services Counselors
- GCU Library
- Technical Support
- Tutoring & Career Resources for Online Students
- Academic & Career Excellence (ACE) Centers for Campus Students
- Math Center
- Science Center
- Writing Center
- For a full listing of all resources, visit the Student Success Center at <https://ssc.gcu.edu/#>

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## Suspension

Nontraditional students who are placed on suspension are not permitted to enroll in courses for a 15-week suspension period. The suspension period will begin with the last day of attendance.

For traditional campus students, the suspension period will begin on the last day of the semester. The suspension period for traditional campus students is as follows:

- Suspended at the end of Fall term: May be reinstated for the subsequent Fall term
- Suspended at the end of Spring term: May be reinstated for the subsequent Spring term
- Suspended at the end of Summer term: May be reinstated for the subsequent Spring term

After fulfilling the terms of the suspension, students may apply for reinstatement by submitting a Request for Reinstatement, although reinstatement is not guaranteed. Students may or may not be granted re-admittance based on their academic record, including participation in previous courses. If readmission is granted, an Academic Plan will be created which may require students to first repeat any course or its equivalency for which they did not earn a C or better (undergraduate) or a B or better (graduate). Students granted re-admittance will need to follow their Academic Plan specifying courses to repeat, grades required to be earned, or any other activities students must complete. The student's progress under the terms of the Academic Plan is monitored, and no program or modality changes can occur until the Academic Plan is complete. The University will review the student's academic record to determine whether satisfactory academic progress can be attained through completion of an Academic Plan. The student's progress under the terms of the Academic Plan is monitored, and no program or modality changes can occur until the plan is complete. Students on an Academic Plan must:

- Obtain the required enrollment cumulative GPA of 2.0 for undergraduates, or 3.0 for graduate and doctoral students, by the end of the Academic Plan.
- Repeat any course or its equivalency for which a passing grade was not earned prior to completing any other course.
- Repeat a grade of C or below to increase the GPA, if directed.
- Complete all courses in the Academic Plan successfully.
- Any non-passing course grade (D or F depending on degree level) or withdrawing from a course (W), earned while on an Academic Plan will result in immediate expulsion.
- Earn a minimum 67% of attempted credits by the end of the Academic Plan.

Reinstated students are required to complete the Academic Plan as specified. Failure to do so will result in expulsion. Students may have financial aid reinstated if they are reinstated academically. It is important to note that students may also be suspended for other reasons, such as violations of the Code of Conduct and Academic Standard policy (University Policy Handbook, <https://www.gcu.edu/sites/default/files/media/documents/academics/handbook/2023-24/university-policy-handbook-fall-2023-v2.pdf>, p. 64).

## Expulsion

Expulsion is reserved for students who have continually failed to meet the University's expected performance requirements, measured by enrollment cumulative GPA and/or earning at least 67% of the cumulative credit hours attempted. After a suspended student is permitted reinstatement, he or she must raise their GPA to the required minimum and/or earn 67% of attempted credit hours by the completion of academic plan. If the student fails to meet either requirement, or any other terms in the Academic Plan, he or she will be expelled from the University and cannot register for any additional courses for two academic years.

After fulfilling the terms of the expulsion, students may apply for reinstatement by submitting a Request for Reinstatement, although reinstatement is not guaranteed. The University will review the student's academic record to determine whether satisfactory academic progress can be attained through completion of an Academic Plan. The student's progress under the terms of the Academic Plan is monitored, and no program or modality changes can occur until the plan is complete. Students on an Academic Plan must:

- Obtain the required enrollment cumulative GPA of 2.0 for undergraduates, or 3.0 for graduate and doctoral students, by the end of the Academic Plan.
- Repeat any course or its equivalency for which a passing grade was not earned prior to completing any other course.
- Repeat a grade of C or below to increase the GPA, if directed.
- Complete all courses in the Academic Plan successfully.
  - Any non-passing course grade (D or F depending on degree level) or withdrawing from a course (W), earned while on an Academic Plan will result in immediate expulsion.
- Earn a minimum 67% of attempted credits by the end of the Academic Plan.

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Reinstated students are required to complete the Academic Plan as specified. Students who do not successfully complete the Academic Plan upon returning from expulsion will not be granted any additional attempts to continue and will be permanently expelled. It is important to note that students may also be expelled for other reasons, such as violations of the Code of Conduct and Academic Standard policy (University Policy Handbook, <https://www.gcu.edu/sites/default/files/media/documents/academics/handbook/2023-24/university-policy-handbook-fall-2023-v2.pdf> , p. 65).

## Maximum Timeframe

Federal regulations require students to complete their Program of Study within a measured maximum time frame that cannot exceed 150% of the published length of the program. The sum of the total required credit hours multiplied by 150% will be the maximum number of attempted credit hours. If a student reaches the 150% timeframe and has not completed his or her program of study, they will be placed on SAP Suspension. Students placed on SAP Suspension for not being able to complete their program within the 150% timeframe may apply for reinstatement by submitting a Request for Reinstatement (<https://www.gcu.edu/admissions>). If readmission is granted, students may continue taking required coursework, but may be required to make other payment arrangements.

## Notification to Students

Once a student has been determined to be on warning or suspension, the University informs the student. This status is added to the student record and will be used in determining continued eligibility for financial aid.

## Federal Financial Aid Penalties for Drug Violations

In December 2020, the FAFSA Simplification Act was enacted into law as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. The FAFSA Simplification Act amended Section 484 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), making several important changes to student eligibility criteria. One of these is the elimination of the prohibition on receiving Title IV aid for students with drug-related convictions.

Beginning with the 2023-2024 award year, the question on application drug convictions will be removed from the FAFSA.

## Disbursement of Title IV Funds for Books and Supplies

If a Pell grant eligible student meets all requirements to receive Title IV funds at least 10 days before the start of a payment period, any Title IV funds in excess of the amount owed to the school at the that time (Title IV credit balance funds) are to be made available to the student up to the amount needed to obtain books and supplies.

The school must make the Title IV credit balance funds for books and supplies available to the student by the 7th day of the payment period.

If a student has not yet established eligibility to receive Title IV funds at least 10 days before the beginning of a payment period due to outstanding verification requirements, unresolved "C" codes on the Student Aid Report (SAR), or conflicting information, this requirement does not apply.

In determining whether a Title IV credit balance exists, the school considers all Title IV funds that could be disbursed at least 10 days before the term/payment period, regardless of if funds have been received by the institution. It is the student's eligibility to receive Title IV funds at that time, rather than the school's schedule for receiving or disbursing those funds, that determines the existence and amount of a Title IV credit balance for this purpose.

If a student requires monetary assistance with purchasing books and supplies, he should contact his Student Services Counselor to determine if he meets the qualifications listed above. If the Student Services Counselor determines that the student is eligible to receive assistance in purchasing books/supplies, the student will have a maximum of \$300 available to purchase the required books/supplies.

The student is under no obligation to take advantage of this provision.

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## Excess Funds - Stipend Checks

Many times, students request aid in excess of the total account charges. Once funds post to the student's account, any funds in excess of the posted charges create a credit balance on the account. In compliance with federal regulations, the University will mail an excess funds (stipend) check within 14 calendar days from the date the Title IV credit balance was created on the account. It is University policy to mail all stipend checks to the current address on file. Students who wish to change their address must go through the Office of Academic Records, update their address on the Student Portal, or contact their SSC to make this change. Students may be subject to a \$25 charge for stop payments made after 21 business days of mailing date. Any credit balance created that is a result of a credit card payment will be returned to the credit card that was initially used or can be used to pay for charges in the next payment period.

Stipend checks are processed according to federal regulations and University policies. For further details, please contact your Student Services Counselor.

## Leave of Absence – Nontraditional

Leave of Absence (LOA) refers to a specific period during a program when a student is not in attendance. A student who requires a temporary break of enrollment in his program of study has the option of requesting a Leave of Absence. Breaks of up to 14 days do not require an LOA. An LOA must meet certain conditions to be counted as a temporary interruption in a student's education rather than being counted as a withdrawal from the University. There must also be a reasonable expectation that the student will return from the LOA for the leave to be approved.

## Leave of Absence Request Process

- A student wishing to request an LOA will need to initiate the process with his Student Services Counselor (SSC). The student must specify the requested start and end date of the LOA. LOAs generally start on the date following the end of a course, or the day after the Last Date of Attendance (LDA) if the LOA is taken during a course. LOAs end on the date before the next scheduled/rescheduled course.
- The SSC will explain the impact of taking the LOA on the student's Federal Title IV awards and on the terms of the student's loan repayment obligation.
- The final approval/ denial is generally completed within one week of the student's LDA.
- No additional charges can be assessed to a student who returns from an approved LOA.
- An LOA request generally must be signed, dated and submitted on or before the last scheduled date of class in a course and must include the reason for the student's request. The request must be completed on the GCU Leave of Absence form. Any request submitted after the last scheduled date of class in a course may be denied unless unforeseen circumstances prevented the student from making the request timely. An explanation of the reason for the delay must be provided.
- GCU policy allows for multiple LOAs of up to a maximum of 180 combined calendar days in any 12-month rolling period.
- Students who do not return from an approved LOA will be withdrawn from the University effective the last date of documented attendance.
- Students may return early from an LOA by contacting their SSC to reschedule their next course.
- Title IV loans cannot be disbursed to a student while on an LOA; Title IV grants already in process prior to the LOA can be disbursed to a student while on an LOA.
- If the LOA request is not approved or the student does not return as scheduled from the approved LOA, this time of nonattendance will be counted against any grace period for Title IV student loan repayment purposes.

Because of various federal requirements, a Leave of Absence at GCU is available only to the Nontraditional student population.

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## Federal Refund Policy - Official and Unofficial Withdrawal

Any federal financial aid recipient who fails all courses in a semester (traditional campus), is terminated by the university for any policy violation (traditional and nontraditional) or withdraws from the University (traditional and nontraditional) is subject to a federal Return of Title IV Aid calculation. This calculation determines both the amount of federal aid that the school is allowed to retain as well as the amount that must be returned to the Department of Education. The R2T4 policy determines the amount of TIV funds the student has earned based on withdrawing before the completion of the period funded and is separate from the Institutional Refund Policy.

An official withdrawal occurs when a student has formally requested to be withdrawn from the University. The student must submit a Complete Withdrawal Form, available on the student portal. If a student notifies his Student Services Counselor of his intent to withdraw from the University but did not complete the Official Withdrawal form, the Student Services Counselor will notify the Office of Academic Records of the official withdrawal request.

An unofficial withdrawal for a non-traditional student occurs when the student has stopped attending any coursework for a period of 14 consecutive days or more but has not communicated a desire to officially withdraw from the University and is not on an approved Leave of Absence.

The federal refund calculation is as follows:

### 1. Withdrawal:

- a. Withdrawal from the University before the first day of classes, 100% of Title IV aid must be returned.
- b. Withdrawal from the University through 60% of the payment period will result in a prorated percentage of aid being earned. Any unearned aid due from the school will be returned to the appropriate funding source. In some instances, a portion of unearned aid may be the student's responsibility. Refunds due to any TIV loan program may be repaid based on the terms of the student's Master Promissory Note. Refunds to grants must be paid, the student should follow the directions on the R2T4 form to make arrangements for repayment. Failure to do so may impact future TIV eligibility
- c. Withdrawal from the University after attending more than 60% of the payment period will result in 100% of the student's Title IV aid being earned. The institution will retain 100% of funding that covers institutional costs; students may retain the remainder of funding.

2. Failing All Courses in a Semester (Traditional Campus): Traditional campus students receiving failing grades in all coursework for the semester will earn 50% of Title IV aid disbursed. If validation can be obtained of a later Last Academic Activity date (LAA), that date will be used in the calculation. The student will continue to owe tuition and fees for the entire semester and will be responsible to the University for any remaining balance on account.

3. Unofficial Withdrawal within a Term Containing Modules (Traditional Campus): Coursework taken within a term where no courses taken span the entire length of the term will be subject to modular refund rules. If the withdrawal from future courses within the term occurs after the student is no longer attending a course, Title IV aid will be earned at a 50% rate and the student will be responsible to the University for any remaining balance on account. If validation can be obtained of a later Last Academic Activity date (LAA), that date will be used in the refund calculation.

4. Students dismissed from the institution will have the refund made based on the earlier of the date the determination was made that the student was to be dismissed due to not meeting an institutional policy or the date the triggering incident occurred.

## Order of Return of Title IV Funds Required to be Returned by the Institution

- Unsubsidized Direct Loans (other than Direct PLUS Loans)
- Subsidized Direct Loans
- Direct PLUS Loans (parent or graduate)
- Federal Pell Grants for which a return of Title IV funds is required
- Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant, for which a return of Title IV funds is required.
- FSEOG for which a return of Title IV funds is required
- TEACH Grants for which a return of Title IV funds is required



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Note: returns of less than \$1.00 are not required to be made.

Under the September 2, 2020 final regulations, the order of return of Title IV funds was slightly modified with respect to Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants. (Source: 2022-23 FSA Handbook, [https://fsapartners.ed.gov/sites/default/files/2022-2023/2022-2023\\_Federal\\_Student\\_Aid\\_Handbook/knowledge-center\\_fsa-handbook\\_2022-2023\\_vol5\\_ch2-steps-return-title-iv-aid-calculation-part-2.pdf](https://fsapartners.ed.gov/sites/default/files/2022-2023/2022-2023_Federal_Student_Aid_Handbook/knowledge-center_fsa-handbook_2022-2023_vol5_ch2-steps-return-title-iv-aid-calculation-part-2.pdf), p. 9)

## Federal Funding Sources

### Federal Pell Grant

A Federal Pell Grant, unlike a loan, does not have to be repaid except under certain circumstances. It is available to eligible undergraduate students who have not earned a bachelor's degree. To apply, start by submitting a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. Schools use this information on the FAFSA form to determine Pell grant eligibility (<https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/grants/pell>).

### Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

FSEOG is available to undergraduate students with exceptional financial need. Students with the lowest EFCs who also receive a Pell grant for that award year have primary consideration for FSEOG funding. FSEOG is an award that does not require repayment. This award is dependent on financial need and availability of limited funds.

### Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant (IASG)

A student whose parent or guardian was a member of the U. S. Armed Forces and died as a result of service performed in Iraq or Afghanistan after September 11, 2001, may be eligible to receive this grant. For more information on this grant students should contact their Student Services Counselor.

### Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarship

Beginning with the 2018-19 award year, a Pell-eligible student whose parent or guardian died in the line of duty while performing as a public safety officer is eligible to receive a maximum Pell Grant for the award year for which the determination of eligibility is made. For more information about this, students should contact their Student Services Counselor.

### Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant (TEACH)

The U.S. Department of Education's Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant program provides grant funds to postsecondary students who are completing coursework that is needed for a career in teaching and who agree to serve for at least four years.

You must serve as a full-time, highly qualified teacher in a high-need field and in a school serving low-income students after leaving school.

If you receive a TEACH Grant, but do not complete the required four years of teaching service within eight years after completing the coursework for which you received the grant, or if you otherwise do not meet the requirements of the TEACH Grant program, all TEACH Grant funds that you received will be converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan that you must repay in full with interest to the Department of Education. Once a TEACH Grant is converted to a loan, it cannot be converted back to a grant.

For more information about this grant and eligibility, students can refer to the [Scholarship and Grants](https://www.gcu.edu/financial-aid/scholarships-grants/state-grants) ( <https://www.gcu.edu/financial-aid/scholarships-grants/state-grants> ) page on our website or visit the Student Aid website at <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/grants/teach>.

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## Federal Work-study

Federal work-study provides part-time jobs for students with financial need, allowing them to earn money to help pay educational expenses. Money awarded will be included in the financial aid package for that specific academic year. Contact Student Employment for more information.

## Federal Direct Loan Program

Loans are often part of a financial award package as they provide students with an opportunity to defer part of their educational costs by borrowing now and paying later. Each year a student's loan eligibility is determined by completing the FAFSA. Likewise, eligibility for certain loans and loan amounts may change according to the information reported on all required documentation.

In order to receive a Federal Direct loan, a completed Master Promissory Note (MPN) is required. The MPN is a legal document in which you promise to repay your loan(s) and any accrued interest and fees to the U.S. Department of Education. It explains the terms and conditions of your loan(s), and items such as how interest is calculated, what deferment and cancellation provisions are available to you, and estimated repayment plans.

A second requirement of receiving a student loan is to complete Entrance Counseling. This is a mandatory information session which takes place before you receive your first federal student loan that explains your responsibilities and rights as a student borrower.

Upon graduation, withdrawal or enrollment falls below half-time, Exit Counseling is also required which will reiterate your rights and responsibilities as a student loan borrower and provide useful tips and information to help manage your student loans. You must repay the loan as well as interest that accrues. It is important to understand your repayment options so you can successfully repay your loans (<https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types#loans> ). For more information about completing the Student Loan Exit Counseling, please visit <https://studentaid.gov/exit-counseling/>.

### Direct Subsidized Loans

Subsidized loans are available to undergraduate students who meet certain financial need per the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The U.S. Department of Education (ED) pays the interest on the Direct Subsidized loan(s) while the student is in school at least a half time basis and during periods when the loan is deferred.

Graduate and professional students are not eligible for this loan.

### Direct Unsubsidized Loans

Unsubsidized loans are available to both undergraduate and graduate students regardless of financial need. Eligibility is not based on financial need. Students are responsible for the interest that accrues on this loan from the date the funds are disbursed until the funds are paid back in full. The student borrower also has the option to pay the interest that is accruing while attending school or postponing payments. The U.S. Department of Education (ED) does not pay the interests on the student's behalf at any time. If payment is postponed, the interest will accrue and be capitalized (added to the principal amount of the loan).

### Direct PLUS Loans

**Direct Grad PLUS Loans** are awarded to students based on credit history. They are available to students enrolled in a graduate or professional program of study. Eligibility is not based on financial need.

**Direct Parent PLUS Loans** are offered to the parent(s) of undergraduate students enrolled at least half-time. Eligibility is not based on financial need. They are awarded based on credit history. If your parent is denied a PLUS Loan, you may request to borrow additional student loans. If your parent is approved for a PLUS Loan, repayment begins immediately unless your parent requests and is approved for a deferment.

The interest rate for new loans is determined each year and is announced during the month of July. The interest rates for Direct Subsidized Loans and Direct Unsubsidized Loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2023, and before July 1, 2024, are **5.50 %** (Undergraduate Borrowers with Direct Subsidized Loans and Direct Unsubsidized Loans) and **7.05%** (Graduate or Professional Borrowers with Direct Unsubsidized Loans).

# 2023-24 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

## Annual and Aggregate Loan Limits

There are limits on the amount of subsidized and unsubsidized loans that a student is eligible to receive each academic year (annual loan limits) and the total amounts that may be borrowed for undergraduate and graduate study (aggregate loan limits).

ANNUAL LOAN LIMITS			
	Base Loan Dependent/ Independent Sub/Unsub	Additional Loan Independent Unsub	Total Loan Amount
Freshman	\$3,500/\$2,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 9,500
Sophomore	\$4,500/\$2,000	\$ 4,000	\$10,500
Junior	\$5,500/\$2,000	\$ 5,000	\$12,500
Senior	\$5,500/\$2,000	\$ 5,000	\$12,500
Graduate		\$20,500	\$20,500

AGGREGATE STAFFORD LOAN LIMITS	
Undergraduate Subsidized Limit	\$ 23,000
Undergraduate Combined Limit	\$ 57,500
Graduate Subsidized Limit (including all undergraduate subsidized loans)	\$ 65,500
Graduate Combined Limit (including all undergraduate loans)	\$138,500

## National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS)

Federal loan information will be reported to the NSLDS and will be accessible by guaranty agencies, lenders and schools determined to be authorized users of the data system. Students may access the Student NSLDS system at <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/sign-in/landing?redirectTo=%2F> to review their individual financial aid history.

## Loan Repayment

When a loan disbursement is made to the eligible borrower, an email from GCU informs the borrower of the disbursement posting. The borrower will receive notification by mail or email from the loan servicer assigned to the loan. If the borrower does not receive an email or letter, he/she can view his/her loan servicer information at StudentAid.gov.

Upon entering repayment on the borrower's student loan, the servicer will automatically place the borrower in a Standard Repayment Plan. If the borrower is wanting a different plan, he/she must contact the servicer as soon as possible. If the borrower is experiencing difficulties repaying his/her student loan, he/she may be able to change his/her repayment plan to one that lowers your monthly payment and, in some cases, will be based on the borrower's income. If the borrower does not make arrangements with his/her servicer, the servicer will report any delinquency to the credit bureaus. Additional information about loan repayment can be found at <https://students.gcu.edu/student-resources/student-loan-repayment> or at <https://studentaid.gov/h/manage-loans>.

# 2023-24 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

## Code of Conduct for Education Loans

The Grand Canyon University Code of Conduct prohibits a conflict of interest with the responsibilities of an agent of the school with respect to private education loans. This code of conduct prohibits:

- Revenue-sharing arrangements with any lender
- Receiving gifts from a lender, a guarantor or a loan servicer
- Contracting arrangement providing financial benefit from any lender or affiliate of a lender
- Directing borrowers to particular lenders, or refusing or delaying loan certifications
- Offers of funds for private loans
- Call center or financial aid staffing assistance
- Advisory board compensation

Arizona Student Loan Code of Conduct at [https://www.gcu.edu/sites/default/files/media/Documents/Consumer-Information/Student\\_Loan\\_Code\\_Conduct\\_PDF\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.gcu.edu/sites/default/files/media/Documents/Consumer-Information/Student_Loan_Code_Conduct_PDF_FINAL.pdf).

## Scholarship Opportunities

At Grand Canyon University (GCU), we offer generous scholarship opportunities to help make funding a private, Christian education affordable. GCU offers a variety of scholarship and grant offerings to choose from for those wishing to pursue their education as a traditional, undergraduate campus student.

Some scholarships have specific requirements or conditions that must be met, and many are renewable each year. Scholarship opportunities are located on our [Scholarships and Grants](https://www.gcu.edu/financial-aid/scholarships-grants) (<https://www.gcu.edu/financial-aid/scholarships-grants>) page on our website.

## State Grants for Arizona Residents

### Arizona Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership Program (AzLEAP)

The AZ LEAP program is a state and institutional partnership which provides student financial assistance in the form of need-based grants to low-income, undergraduate, Arizona resident students who have demonstrated substantial financial need. Minimum

Qualifications:

- Must be a U.S. Citizen or an eligible non-citizen
- Must be a resident of Arizona
- Must be enrolled at least half-time as an undergraduate student in a regionally or nationally accredited Arizona postsecondary institution
- Must have substantial financial need (be Pell eligible) as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Must meet GCU Satisfactory Academic requirements

# 2023-24 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

## Arizona Teacher Student Loan Program (ATSLP)

The Arizona Teacher Student Loan Program (ATSLP) is a forgivable loan program designed to financially support and encourage private college students who are Arizona residents to enter the teaching profession and teach in Arizona. Students must enter into an agreement with the Arizona Board of Regents to teach in an Arizona public school for one full school year for each year that ATSLP Loan funding was received. The agreement will provide the conditions of the forgivable loan and information on promising to repay the loan if the teaching obligation is not met. GCU must certify that the student meets the minimum qualifications for the program. Loans are awarded to eligible students on a first-come, first-served basis.

### Loan program:

The forgivable loan can be applied toward tuition, instructional materials and mandatory fees as documented in the student's Cost of Attendance (COA) at GCU excluding all grants, scholarships, and other tuition benefits (e.g., tribal and military). The forgivable loan can be awarded each academic year to:

- Undergraduate students for a total of eight (8) semesters/payment periods (e.g., fall and/or spring)
- Post baccalaureate student to a total of four (4) semesters/payment periods (e.g., fall and/or, spring)
- Graduate students who do not have an undergraduate teaching degree to a total of four (4) semesters/payment periods (e.g., fall and/or spring)

### Minimum qualifications for loan:

- Must be a U.S. citizen or legal resident of the U.S. or otherwise lawfully present in the U.S.
- Must be a resident of Arizona
- Must be admitted and enrolled as an undergraduate, graduate or postbaccalaureate student at a qualifying private, postsecondary educational institution in Arizona.
- Must file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each year enrolled in the Arizona Teacher Student Loan program.
- Must sign the GCU ATSLP student agreement that requires the student to meet eligibility requirements for the program and specifies continuing eligibility terms, post-graduation or post-certification service obligations and repayment obligations if a student fails to meet eligibility requirements or service obligations.

Loan recipients have a grace period of 12 months after graduation or earning their teaching credential to begin teaching. (Deferment is possible if the recipient of the loan is temporarily unable to work; is called to active military duty; is enrolled in a graduate degree program that requires delaying the teaching requirement; or is unable to fulfill the teaching requirement due to circumstances beyond their control.)

Additional information on these AZ grants can be found here, <https://www.gcu.edu/financial-aid/scholarships-grants/state-grants>.

## Additional State Grant Programs

Students may be also eligible to receive grants and scholarships in their states where available. Depending on the program, student eligibility may be need-based, non-need based, credit-based or dependent on other specific conditions.

The amount of state grants awarded to any student is contingent on the availability of funds. The university cannot guarantee any funding from the state grant sources listed, as the list is subject to change without notice based on changes in state budgetary constraints, state law or regulation and/or university participation. Where a work or other requirement is included in order to preclude the conversion of a scholarship or grant to a loan, the university makes no representation or warranty as to whether a graduate will be able to gain such employment or fulfill such other requirement.

For information regarding grants and scholarships offered by various states, go to [http://www.NASFAA.org/state financial aid programs](http://www.NASFAA.org/state_financial_aid_programs)

# 2023-24 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

## Student Employment

### Federal and Non-Federal Work Study

On campus Federal Work Study and Non-Federal Work Study employees will not be able to work without completed hiring documents. Federal and Non-Federal Work Study positions are paid bi-monthly. A student employed by GCU must be registered for at least six credit hours in order to maintain his/her exemption from Social Security taxes. Students are unable to receive state unemployment upon termination of their position.

Students are expected to do the following:

- Report to work promptly.
- Notify supervisors in advance if they will be late or absent from work.
- Refrain from conducting personal business and schoolwork during scheduled work hours.
- Accurately report the hours worked (sign time sheet).
- Dress appropriately according to position.
- Monitor earnings in relation to their Federal Work Study award.
- Give two weeks' notice before resigning.

### International Student Employment

International students who wish to work while in the U.S. must be aware of and comply with F-1 visa employment regulations. Working illegally while in the U.S. is a serious offense that must be reported to the Department of Homeland Security (SEVIS) and can result in loss of F-1 status and benefits, and possible deportation. All international students must confer with the staff at the International Students Office before accepting or beginning any employment.

For Canadian Students: Grand Canyon University is dedicated to providing high quality service for our Canadian students. Please be advised that students are responsible for determining their eligibility for Canadian Tax Credits. Certain Grand Canyon University courses and programs may not meet certain requirements for tax credits, including but not limited to the minimum week and continuous enrollment requirements. For more information on Canadian Tax Credits, please contact The Revenue Canada Agency or visit [www.cra.gc.ca](http://www.cra.gc.ca).

### On-Campus Employment

International students with F-1 status may be employed on campus without obtaining special permission from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) provided they are maintaining legal immigration status. Nonetheless, international students should check with the International Students Office to be sure the prospective job is permissible.

### Off-Campus Employment

After being enrolled full-time for one academic year (two semesters), international students may be eligible for employment off-campus; however, opportunities are limited. Consult with the International Students Office for more information.

Below is a listing of the three primary types of off-campus employment that are available to international students.

- Practical Training (PT) - PT is a benefit that allows F-1 students to gain practical experience working in the US in their field of study. There are two types of PT, Optional Practical Training (OPT) and Curricular Practical Training (CPT). OPT may be taken either during or following completion of the degree program but is most feasible following completion because of the amount of time it takes to apply. Students are allowed a total of 12 months of OPT. The International Student Coordinator in the International Students Office will determine eligibility for OPT and may recommend to USCIS that work authorization for OPT be given. Prior to submitting an application for OPT, students must have completed full-time enrollment in two semesters of the degree program, and the application must be submitted to USCIS prior to completion. USCIS will review the application and upon approval will issue an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) card as legal permission to work. Students must have the EAD in their possession before they begin to work. Students are not required to have a job offer to apply for OPT.
- CPT may be authorized for those F-1 students who have enrolled in an internship course and have an internship job (firm offer) that has been certified through the college and the International Students Office. Any time up to 12 months on full-time CPT does not detract from a student's OPT. Students who complete 12 or more months of full-time CPT, however, are not eligible for OPT.
- Employment with an International Organization: This type of employment is very limited and must fit within the guidelines of the International Organization Immunities Act. It may require a change of status that could be detrimental to the student's status.

# 2023-24 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

## Social Security Number

A Social Security Number (SSN) is required in order to be employed in the U.S. For F-1 students to obtain an SSN, they must have employment on-campus or have other work authorization like Curricular Practical Training or Optional Practical Training. To apply for a SSN on the basis of an on-campus job, students must provide a letter from the campus department and the International Students Office, verifying the job and eligibility.

The following documentation will be necessary to present when applying:

- Unexpired passport containing F-1 visa
- Form I-94 Arrival/Departure record
- I-20 form
- One other piece of identification – a student ID card, driver’s license, etc.
- Letter of eligibility from the Center of International Education
- Letter from campus department where the student will be working

To apply on the basis of Curricular Practical Training (CPT), after approval for the internship and registration for an internship course, the staff in International Students Office will generate a new I-20 that lists the student’s work permission for that specific employment. In the case of Optional Practical Training (OPT), the student will apply for it in the last semester of study. Upon approval from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS), the student will receive a card showing work authorization. Please see staff in the International Students Office for these types of employment.

After obtaining one of the above types of authorization and documentation, an international student may apply for a Social Security Number by going in person to the local Social Security Administration office. The International Students Office can direct students to the nearest Social Security Administration office.

## International Student Tax-Reporting Responsibilities

International students have some responsibilities for reporting to the Internal Revenue Service each year. Students may be subject to U.S. taxation based on the source and type of income and the number of years they have been present in the U.S. Each tax year, all international students must file Form 8843. Those who earned income from a U.S. source must file Form 1040NR or 1040NR-EZ. Grants and scholarships may be subject to taxation. Generally, tax forms must be filed by April 15 for the previous tax year (January 1 – December 31).

It is students’ responsibility to determine tax liabilities and file the appropriate forms in a timely manner.

The International Students Office is not trained as professional tax consultants and cannot complete and/or file any tax forms.