Financial Aid Programs

Federal Programs

These include the Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), Federal Work-Study (FWS), Federal Subsidized Direct Loans, Federal Unsubsidized Direct Loans, Federal PLUS Loans for parents of dependent students (DPLUS) and Federal Grad PLUS Loans for Graduate students (DGPLUS). For more information, go to the Office of Student Financial Aid home page (http://financialaid.gmu.edu).

State Financial Aid Programs for Undergraduate Virginia Residents

Eligibility for all state programs is determined based on the student’s FAFSA and financial need. State grant funds are limited, so adherence to the January 15 priority filing date is critical.

Virginia Commonwealth Award

This program is open to undergraduate students who have demonstrated financial need, are enrolled at least half-time, and are domiciliary residents of Virginia.

Virginia Guaranteed Assistance Program (VGAP)

This program is a component of the Virginia Commonwealth Award Program that is open to students who have demonstrated academic achievement in high school and have graduated from a Virginia high school. VGAP awards are renewable for up to four years. Students must advance a grade level before receiving a subsequent VGAP award. Students must be enrolled full-time to receive VGAP.

Graduate Student Assistance

Assistantships, fellowships, and scholarships exclusive of the federal financial aid programs identified earlier are administered by the individual graduate programs. Students interested in pursuing graduate assistantships, fellowships, or scholarships should contact their graduate program directly.

All financial aid recipients are responsible for becoming familiar and complying with applicable federal and state regulations, and university policies.

All students receiving financial aid must be enrolled in an eligible degree or certificate program; maintain satisfactory academic progress (SAP) as defined by the Office of Student Financial Aid in accordance with federal guidelines (see below); be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen as defined by the U.S. Department of Education and all male students must be registered with Selective Service.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Standards

Federal legislation governing the administration of federal programs requires colleges and universities to define and enforce standards of academic progress for students receiving or applying for financial aid. To comply with this legislation, the Office of Student Financial Aid has established a formal satisfactory academic progress policy. For detailed information, go to the Office of Student Financial Aid home page (http://financialaid.gmu.edu) or contact the Office of Student Financial Aid directly.

Return of Title IV Funds

The Office of Student Financial Aid is required by federal law to re-calculate federal financial aid eligibility for students who completely withdraw from all classes, drop out, are dismissed, or take a leave of absence prior to completing a payment period or term. According to the regulations, the amount of Federal Title IV awarded to a student must be re-calculated in these situations and any portion of the financial aid received that is considered to be "uneearned" must be returned to the Title IV Program(s) from which it was received. Any student considering dropping or withdrawing from all courses, should contact their assigned
Financial Aid Counselor immediately regarding possible adjustments to their financial aid.

**Emergency Loan Programs**

George Mason University has established an emergency loan account funded by the Gerson Trust.

This emergency loan is designed for enrolled students that encounter unexpected emergencies and is not meant to pay for tuition and fees. This is a short-term, interest free loan and students may borrow up to $1000. Repayment is due in 90 days. Applications may be obtained from the Office of Student Financial Aid.

**Certificate Programs that Qualify for Financial Aid (Gainful Employment)**

The qualifying certificate programs include:

- Accounting Undergraduate Certificate
- Advanced Biomedical Sciences Graduate Certificate
- Applied Behavior Analysis Graduate Certificate
- Autism Spectrum Disorders Graduate Certificate
- Business Analytics Graduate Certificate
- College Teaching Graduate Certificate
- Early Childhood Education PK-3 Graduate Certificate
- Early Childhood Special Education Graduate Certificate
- Education Leadership Graduate Certificate
- Forensics Graduate Certificate
- Geospatial Intelligence Graduate Certificate
- Health Informatics and Data Analytics Graduate Certificate
- Higher Education Administration Graduate Certificate
- Music Education Licensure PK-12 Graduate Certificate
- Nutrition Graduate Certificate
- School Psychology Graduate Certificate
- Secondary Education Licensure Graduate Certificate
- Adapted Curriculum Concentration within the Special Education Graduate Certificate
- General Curriculum Concentration within the Special Education Graduate Certificate
- Teaching English as a Second Language Graduate Certificate
- Teaching Theatre PK-12 Graduate Certificate