



School of Medicine
School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine
Office of Financial Aid

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH & TROPICAL MEDICINE

Dear Student:

Greetings from the Tulane University Financial Aid Office located on the Health Sciences campus. We know you must be proud and excited about the next academic step you are about to undertake. However, we expect that one of your concerns is, "How am I going to afford to pay for school without mortgaging my future?" Let us assure you, this important and valid question is being asked by many of your peers who are facing a similar situation. We hope the following information will help you in exploring your financial options and making decisions regarding your public health education.

Each year, more and more students find it necessary to rely upon student aid programs in financing their medical education. Last year nearly 65% of Tulane public health students applied for and received some form of financial assistance. As a new student, we want to inform you of the financial aid programs available and how we determine your eligibility for those programs.

FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION PROCESS

Applying for financial aid is a relatively simple process. The key is to start early and to be complete and accurate in your answers to required application questions and in your submission of required documents. We must receive the following items before your aid application is considered complete and ready for processing:

- 1) Results from your completion of a **2009-2010 Free Application for Federal Student Aid** (a/k/a **2009-2010 FAFSA**). NOTE: We encourage you to complete the FAFSA via the Internet by using "FAFSA on the Web" at: www.fafsa.ed.gov. If you completed a FAFSA last year (2008-2009), then you may be eligible to complete a "Renewal FAFSA on the Web". Check out www.fafsa.ed.gov for more details.
- 2) A completed Tulane School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine 2009-2010 Financial Aid Addendum which is available at our web site.
- 3) Other documentation as requested. Please refer to the "How to Apply for Aid" section of our web site found at: http://www.finaidhsc.tulane.edu/ph_tropic_incoming_faq_how_to_apply.htm/.

That is basically all there is to the initial application process.

FINANCIAL AID INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES

Please take time to carefully review all of the information found on our web site, especially the "Frequently Asked Questions" section: http://www.finaidhsc.tulane.edu/ph_tropic_incoming_faq.htm

Your FAFSA data is used in determining your financial need and, therefore, the amount and type of federal student loan programs for which you qualify. These programs include the Federal Perkins Loan, the Federal Stafford Loan, the Federal Graduate PLUS Loan, and Federal Work Study. For descriptions of the federal loan programs please refer to the "Tulane University Comprehensive Guide to Graduate Financial Aid" found at the following web site address:

http://www.finaidhsc.tulane.edu/ph_news.htm

FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

SCHOLARSHIPS

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH & TROPICAL MEDICINE DEAN'S GRANT SCHOLARSHIP

The Tulane School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine Dean's Grants are traditionally reserved for students who enroll in the Peace Corps Masters Internationalist Program (PCI), are returned Peace Corps volunteers, or exhibit exceptional academic merit. The Dean's Grant is a non-renewable scholarship usually awarded during a student's first year of attendance and typically for the amount of \$5,000. Recipients must maintain a minimum enrollment requirement of 12 hours each semester of their first academic year. Students in the PCI program must be accepted by the Peace Corps before the award can be offered. The Dean of Admissions and Student Affairs finalizes all Dean's Grant awards. For more information about the Dean's Grant Scholarship program, contact the Office of Admissions and Student Affairs.

PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS

Many foundations, organizations, and other entities offer financial support to students pursuing a degree in public health fields. We strongly urge students to take an aggressive approach in attempting to secure such support on their own. An excellent way to search for possible private scholarships and loans is on the Internet at the following URL address: <http://www.finaid.org>

Potential private sector assistance may also be found by contacting your local chamber of commerce, hospitals, clinics, and health profession societies. You should attempt to identify any support that may be available to you by virtue of your ethnicity, race, gender, religion, and social organizations to which you or your family may belong.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS (SDS)

This program from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is designed to assist students from socially and/or economically disadvantaged backgrounds. The amount of the award depends on the availability of funds. In order to qualify, a student must enroll full-time (enrolled for at least 9 credit hours per semester). ***You must submit the Tulane School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine's 2009-2010 Financial Aid Addendum and a signed copy of your parents' 2008 federal income tax return.***

U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINEESHIPS

The U.S. Public Health Service provides supplemental funding for qualified students in the following departments:

Biostatistics	Epidemiology	Health Communication/Education	Maternal & Child Health
Nutrition	Environmental Health		

Traineeships are **NOT** available for students in International Health or Tropical Medicine. All recipients must enroll full-time (enrolled for at least 9 credit hours per semester). Traineeship awards are dependent upon availability of funds. Application for U.S. Public Health Traineeships requires that students complete the Tulane School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine's 2009-2010 Financial Aid Addendum.

MILITARY SCHOLARSHIPS

The Air Force and Navy offer full scholarships covering tuition and fees, a stipend for books, supplies and living expenses. In exchange for their financial assistance, you agree to serve the military's public health needs for a period of time following your graduation. If you would like information about military scholarship programs, we recommend that you contact your local recruiter or visit them on the internet.

Air Force: <http://www.airforce.com/opportunities/healthcare/careers/biomedical-sciences/public-health-officer/>.

Navy: <http://www.navy.com/careers/healthcare/medicalservices/>.

LOANS

FEDERAL PERKINS LOANS

Federal Perkins Loans are granted on a need basis by Tulane. While the annual maximum amount of Perkins Loan funds a public health student can receive is \$8,000, our offers of Federal Perkins Loans normally do not exceed \$3,000 in order to assist as many eligible students as possible.

FEDERAL STAFFORD LOANS

The Federal Stafford Loan program is typically a major source of financing for Tulane public health students. If eligible, students may borrow up to \$8,500 per year of "subsidized" Stafford funds. "Subsidized" means that the loan's interest is paid by the federal government while the student is enrolled at least half-time. Additionally, eligible students may borrow up to \$24,500 per year of "unsubsidized" Stafford loan funds. "Unsubsidized"

means that the student pays the interest on the loan while in school (or agrees to capitalize the interest and add it to the principal upon repayment).

FEDERAL GRADUATE PLUS LOANS

The Federal Graduate PLUS Loan program, introduced in 2006, is an unsubsidized loan which requires that the borrower pass credit worthiness criteria. Eligible borrowers may borrow up to the cost of attendance less other aid received. Students using a Graduate PLUS loan to supplement their other aid are urged to select the same lender as your Stafford lender.

FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

LOANS (CONTINUED)

NON-FEDERAL PRIVATE ALTERNATIVE LOANS

Private alternative loans are non-federal credit based loans that have *variable* interest rates, thus you need to check with your lender regarding the exact terms. These loans require that the borrower pass credit worthiness criteria and allow for students to borrow up to the cost of attendance less other aid received. Students should select **EITHER** a Federal Graduate PLUS Loan **OR** a private loan.

EMPLOYMENT

FEDERAL WORK STUDY

Federal Work Study (FWS) funds are awarded to those demonstrating a financial need. Funds are limited thus students completing their financial aid applications early are given FWS preference. The typical academic year work study award is \$3,000.

THE FINANCIAL AID PROCESS - REVISITED

Once your Tulane financial aid file is complete, we will determine your eligibility for the various available aid programs. When we finish processing your application, we will send you the following:

1. An e-mail notification that your financial aid award is complete, along with instructions how you can view and accept your award via the internet; and
2. An award notification letter detailing the types and amounts of aid for which you are eligible.

You must indicate which aid programs you wish to accept, by either accepting your aid on-line and/or by returning the award acceptance portion of your award letter to our office.

Your financial need is calculated by subtracting your calculated expected contribution towards your educational costs from the university's approved cost of attendance budget. The 2009-2010 budget is not available yet, but the approved 9-month budget for public health students during the 2008-2009 academic year is as follows:

TUITION & FEES	\$ 28,594	(assuming 30 credit hours for the academic year)
BOOKS & SUPPLIES	1,500	
ROOM & BOARD	12,100	
TRANSPORTATION	2,800	
HEALTH INSURANCE	2,300	
<u>MISCELLANEOUS</u>	<u>1,450</u>	
TOTAL	\$ 48,744	

Federal regulations governing financial aid allow for some adjustments to a student's budget in situations of unusual financial circumstances. If you provide us with a written request, including documentation of circumstances and specific expenses incurred, we will reconsider your budget and award.

TULANE BILLING POLICIES

Tulane bills students at the start of each semester during the academic year. Each billing reflects the tuition and fees associated with your credit hours of enrollment, plus any other charges incurred (such as bookstore purchases, campus controlled rent, monthly parking fees, etc.). Your first billing will also include the cost of the university's health insurance, although this amount may be canceled if you provide proof of coverage under another health insurance program. At the end of each month a finance charge is applied to any unpaid account balance on your student account. Contact the Tulane University Accounts Receivable Office (504-865-5368) if you have any questions regarding your billing statements.

You should establish a realistic budget for your living expenses. Determine what amount of your financial aid will be needed to help you meet your living expenses. **WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU ARRIVE AT SCHOOL WITH ADEQUATE FUNDING TO FINANCE YOUR LIVING EXPENSES FOR THE FIRST TWO MONTHS.**

CREDITWORTHINESS TESTS FOR CREDIT-BASED LOAN PROGRAMS

Credit-based loan lenders perform a creditworthy evaluation on all applicants to their Federal Graduate PLUS loans and their non-federal private loan programs. Student borrowers (and/or their co-signers if applicable for private loans) must pass the lender's creditworthiness standards prior to their approval of a credit-based loan application. (*NOTE: There is no creditworthiness evaluation requirement for the processing of Federal Stafford loans and Federal Perkins loans.*)

Before applying for credit-based education loans or if you are ever denied credit, you should request a copy of your credit report from a local agency or from one of the national credit reporting agencies. Review the report carefully, paying particular attention to the number of accounts, total account balances, and the timeliness of payments. If you find any derogatory information that appears to be incorrect, you should contact the credit reporting agency. Unfortunately, errors can occur in your credit report. Common reasons for errors are: inconsistent reporting by creditors, wrong or misplaced dates, wrong amounts, double reporting, incorrect reporting due to common names, parents and students having the same address and name, and incomplete reporting of demographic information. Items that are reported in error can be corrected, but it can take several months to have the corrections made. In order to expedite delivery of a credit-based loan for your education, you should correct any credit problems prior to starting the loan application process.

NOTE: If a loan is denied on the basis of a poor credit rating, whether or not the poor credit rating is in error, Tulane University's School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine does not have funds to replace that denied loan.

FINAL COMMENTS

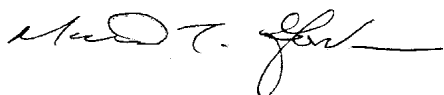
For now, you need to adhere to the following schedule:

1. Complete the 2009-2010 FAFSA and submit it to the federal processor as soon as possible.
2. Complete the 2009-2010 Financial Aid Addendum and submit it to our office as soon as possible.

Watch for financial aid correspondence (by mail and/or e-mail). Most financial aid applicants will hear from us in March about their financial aid package. We will be sending appropriate loan application instructions and additional budget information when it becomes available.

We hope this letter and packet of enclosed materials will prove informative to you. If you need additional information, or have any questions concerning the material provided, please feel free to contact our office at (504) 988-6135. Again, congratulations on your pursuit of a Tulane education. We wish you continued success in the upcoming academic year.

Sincerely,



Michael T. Goodman
Associate Vice-President
University Financial Aid