

Financial Aid Award Information 2021-22 Academic Year

INVESTING IN EDUCATION equates to an investment in human potential. At Oberlin College, our financial aid policies reflect a historic commitment to inclusion and academic excellence. Financial aid packages meet 100 percent of the demonstrated need for every student who meets our rigorous admission standards. This guide provides essential information on your financial aid package. We also provide details on the academic progress a student must make to continue applying for and receiving federal financial aid.

In addition to the letters and emails you receive from the Office of Financial Aid, you can also check on your application using our web-based student records system at <http://presto.cc.oberlin.edu/>. If you have a specific question, please contact our office at financial.aid@oberlin.edu. You may also visit our website at www.oberlin.edu/financialaid for further information. Unless otherwise noted, financial aid packages are based on full-time enrollment and on-campus residence for a full academic year.

If you enroll less than full time or live off-campus or commute, you will receive an adjustment to your aid. You are able to apply for eight semesters of financial aid. Double-degree students are able to apply for 10 semesters of aid. If you are a transfer student, your eligibility will be prorated based on your academic status at the time you enter.

In general, the amount of financial aid that you receive will stay about the same from one year to the next. However, changes to family income, **siblings leaving or entering undergraduate study in future years**, and other factors may alter your financial aid eligibility.

FIRST-TIME FINANCIAL AID APPLICANTS

Financial aid for first-time applicants at Oberlin is based on the CSS PROFILE and the Non-Custodial Parent Statement (if applicable). We reserve the right to make adjustments to aid packages based on new information.

Students applying to Oberlin College are asked to complete several forms and worksheets, including the CSS Profile Application, to help the institution better assess how to equitably distribute the more than \$75 million in

institutional financial aid provided by the college. The CSS Profile Application has no bearing on federal assistance students receive. Students need to complete only the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) if they wish to be considered for just federal and state grants, loans, and/or work-study.

RENEWING FINANCIAL AID

You must apply for need-based aid each year. Your eligibility for aid may change each year as your family's circumstances change.

OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS IN COLLEGE

When determining financial need, Oberlin College takes into consideration sibling(s) enrolled at a four-year college, but not sibling(s) enrolled in graduate school or a two-year community college. Parents in college are also not considered in the calculation of household members in college. **Your financial aid award may be adjusted if there is a change in the enrollment status of your sibling(s).** You must notify the Office of Financial Aid as soon as your sibling's enrollment status changes. Oberlin may require documentation of your sibling's enrollment.

ACADEMIC LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Unless otherwise noted, your financial aid award is based on enrollment at Oberlin's campus. If you will be studying away from Oberlin, you must check with the Office of Financial Aid to determine if there is additional paperwork that may be required. ►►

Please contact us with any questions regarding financial aid policies at Oberlin College. We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of information at the time of printing. All information, however, is subject to updates, corrections, and revisions.

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID
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financial.aid@oberlin.edu
www.oberlin.edu/financialaid

OUTSIDE AWARDS

You must notify the Office of Financial Aid of any external scholarship assistance not already listed on the award letter. You may report outside scholarships via the online form at www.oberlin.edu/financial-aid/report. Oberlin's policy regarding external scholarships is as follows: Scholarships based totally or in part on merit will not affect aid received from Oberlin sources, provided that the total amount of grants and scholarships does not exceed Oberlin's standard student charges. These scholarships may replace self-help (loans and employment) offered in the original aid package.

Need-based grants, entitlements, and benefits from federal, state, or other sources (including tuition benefits from student/parent employers) will replace Oberlin College Grants and/or scholarships dollar-for-dollar. For example, a \$1,000 state grant will replace \$1,000 of an Oberlin College Grant.

Financial aid from federal, state, and other sources will be adjusted in response to receipt of outside scholarships and awards in accordance to eligibility rules established by the Department of Education or other program administrators.

FEDERAL DIRECT STAFFORD LOANS

Most students who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents may participate in the Federal Direct Stafford Loan Program.

First-Time Borrowers: You will need to accept your Federal Direct Stafford Loan. You must also complete a Master Promissory Note and an entrance counseling session online. A federal loan packet will be mailed to you with additional instructions.

Returning Oberlin Students: If you have borrowed in previous years, there is nothing you need to do to accept the amount of the loan listed in your financial aid award. If you have not borrowed in the past, you will need to complete some additional requirements for your Federal Direct Stafford Loan. Complete instructions will be mailed to you with your financial aid award.

FEDERAL WORK-STUDY/ OBERLIN COLLEGE EMPLOYMENT

Students who have a work award as part of their financial aid package are given priority for certain campus jobs. Students will be paid biweekly, based on the number of hours worked. You may arrange to have wages credited to your Oberlin bill, or you may use wages for other expenses.

Please note: Work-study awards are not guaranteed. *They are not automatically applied to your student account* and should not be subtracted from the amount you owe unless you make arrangements to turn earnings over to the college. Students are responsible for securing on-campus

employment. Available jobs (both Federal Work-Study and regular employment) may be viewed at jobs.oberlin.edu.

RESIDENCE

Unless otherwise noted, your financial aid award is based on college-owned housing. Your financial aid will not be affected by your on-campus housing choice. For students who choose to commute from home, the Oberlin College Grant is reduced based on our commuter budget.

MEAL PLANS

Students will have a choice of meal plans that have differing costs. When a student chooses a meal plan that costs less than the GoYeo plan, the Oberlin College Grant will be reduced accordingly. There is no cost savings for students who receive an Oberlin College Grant.

CO-OP

If you dine or reside in a co-op, Oberlin will not charge you for the service provided by the co-op. You will pay the co-op directly. Your Oberlin College Grant will be reduced based on a lesser cost of attendance.

CREDIT HOUR LIMIT*

Full-time enrollment for the college is 14-20 credits; 16-24 credits for the conservatory; and 16-26 credits for double degree. If you carry an overload, you will receive an additional tuition charge.

STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE POLICY

All students are charged for the student health insurance. If you are covered by another policy, this charge can be waived. The deadline to waive the insurance is August 15. Contact the Office of Student Accounts for more information. The student health fee may not be waived.

BOOKS, TRAVEL, AND PERSONAL EXPENSES

You are responsible for paying the cost of books, travel to and from Oberlin, and personal expenses. These additional, estimated costs are considered when we construct your financial aid package.

BILLING

Oberlin College bills for each semester of enrollment. The Office of Student Accounts processes monthly billing statements. Payment plans and long-term financing are available to help families manage their costs.

OBERLIN SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP) MINIMUMS CHART

Semester	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Percent Complete A&S	33%	42%	47%	50%	53%	57%	61%	64%	67%	70%	74%	78%	x	x	x
Percent Complete CON	33%	42%	47%	50%	53%	57%	61%	64%	67%	70%	74%	78%	x	x	x
Percent Complete DD	33%	42%	47%	50%	53%	57%	61%	64%	67%	70%	74%	78%	81%	83%	86%
GPA	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.67	1.67	1.67	1.67	1.67	1.67	1.67	1.67	1.67	1.67	1.67	1.67

REVIEW OF ELIGIBILITY

Financial aid awards are constructed within budget constraints and to comply with federal regulation and Oberlin College policy. If, however, your family experiences an unforeseen change in financial circumstances, or if you have special circumstances you feel should be taken into account, you may request a review of your financial aid eligibility. The deadline for fall semester requests is September 15. The spring semester request deadline is February 15.

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP)

Federal regulations require all institutions that administer Title IV student aid programs to monitor the academic progress towards degree completion of students applying for and receiving those funds. The Office of Financial Aid reviews satisfactory academic progress for all students receiving financial aid at the end of each semester. All Oberlin College students applying for Title IV Federal Aid must meet the criteria for academic progress stated in this policy. The following federal programs are governed by these regulations:

- **Federal Pell Grant**
- **Federal College Work Study**
- **Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant**
- **Federal Stafford Loans**
- **Federal Parent PLUS Loan**

STANDARDS FOR SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS:

1. Qualitative component: grade point average (GPA). Financial aid recipients must maintain a pre-established cumulative GPA per semester to remain eligible for financial aid. The chart above shows the minimum GPA a student must maintain for each semester. Some students receiving financial aid may repeat courses, receive incompletes, or withdraw from classes. These topics are addressed as follows and are consistent with the *Course Catalog*.

Repeated Courses: A student may repeat a course once for which a grade of D or F is received. Both grades and both courses count in calculation of the GPA. Only one of the courses counts as credit toward graduation.

Incomplete Courses: An incomplete grade is a temporary grade, assigned at the end of a semester, to permit students additional time to complete work in a course. Incomplete courses do not earn credit or influence the GPA in the semester in which the course is incomplete, however, the course grades are counted once concluded.

Withdrawal Grades: A student may withdraw from a class per the established withdrawal procedures established by the Office of the Registrar. Withdrawals and NPs (No Pass) do not earn credit or get calculated into the cumulative GPA.

Transfer Students: Within the limits stated in the *Course Catalog*, credit earned at other fully accredited colleges and universities may be applied to the requirements for the Oberlin degree provided that the student received a "C" level or better and the coursework

falls within the scope of a liberal arts curriculum. Transfer credits count toward credits earned, however, they do not get calculated into the cumulative GPA.

2. Quantitative Component: Pace*

As mandated by federal regulations, the maximum time frame in which students must complete their degree must be no longer than 150 percent of the published length of the program. For example, if students require 128 credits to graduate, then they can attempt no more than 192 credits (128 multiplied by 150 percent). Using Oberlin terminology, a student who is required to complete 32 full courses to graduate can attempt no more than 48.

Pace is calculated by the cumulative number of credit hours successfully completed divided by the cumulative number of attempted hours. The chart on the previous page lists the minimum completion rate (cumulative credits earned divided by cumulative credits attempted) a student must maintain for each semester in order to remain eligible for financial aid. ▶▶

ATTEMPTED CREDITS AND EARNED CREDITS

All credits for courses in which a student receives a letter grade D or better are considered earned.

All credits for courses in which a “Pass” is received are considered earned.

All credits for courses in which a student receives a letter grade F or “No Pass” are considered attempted but not earned.

Any repeated courses in which a student receives a D grade or better or a “Pass” are considered attempted and earned.

Repeated courses with a letter grade F or “No Pass” are considered attempted but not earned.

Transfer credits from another institution that are accepted by Oberlin College are considered attempted and earned.

Incompletes are not factored in to the Satisfactory Academic Progress formula until a grade is finalized.

If a student withdraws from a course after the last day of an official withdrawal period (last day of the eighth week for regular non-module classes), the student will receive a letter grade or a P/NP, and the credits will be considered attempted; whether or not the credit is considered earned will depend on the finalized grade. If the student officially withdraws within the specified period of time for a course withdrawal, the student will receive a W, which does not count as attempted or earned credits.

FINANCIAL AID SUSPENSION

A financial aid recipient who fails to meet one or more of the requirements for Satisfactory Academic Progress will be notified in writing by the Office of Financial Aid of their status. Eligibility for financial aid will not be reviewed until the next evaluation period or upon written appeal from the student. To be removed from financial aid suspension, the student must make up the appropriate GPA and/or academic completion rate prior to the next evaluation period.

APPEAL FOR PROBATIONARY SEMESTER

A student who is denied federal aid because of a failure to meet SAP standards after the evaluation period may appeal this determination to the Financial Aid Appeals Committee by submitting a letter of appeal. An appeal must be based on significant mitigating circumstances that seriously impacted academic performance. Submitting a SAP appeal *does not guarantee* continued eligibility for federal aid, as an appeal may be denied.

Examples of special circumstances affecting academic performance may include but are not necessarily limited to:

- Death in the family;
- Separation or divorce;
- Severe accident or illness of the student or family member;
- Extended hospitalization of the student; or
- Re-enrollment after a period of extended absence.

If an appeal for a probationary semester is denied by the committee, the student will be notified, and the decision is final for that semester. The student may re-establish eligibility to be considered for federal aid for a subsequent semester by taking action that brings that student into compliance with the qualitative and quantitative components of Oberlin’s Satisfactory Academic Progress policy. If a student’s appeal is approved by the committee, the student will be notified and given a probationary semester of financial aid eligibility. For the probationary semester, the student will be considered academically eligible for federal aid for which the student has applied and is otherwise eligible.

After completing a probationary semester, the student may re-establish eligibility for federal aid for their next semester of enrollment by either 1) taking action that brings the student into compliance with the qualitative and quantitative components of Oberlin’s SAP standard, or 2) demonstrating a

specific academic plan for meeting the standards for a Probationary Semester as established by the appeals committee.

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING INSTITUTIONAL FINANCIAL AID

The information above regarding Satisfactory Academic Progress relates only to federal and state financial aid. Oberlin College reserves the right to maintain or discontinue institutional financial aid based on a student’s maintenance of good academic and social standing with the college and the applicable dean’s offices.

***Please note that Oberlin’s College of Arts & Sciences does not operate on a credit hour system, but rather a course load system. To be full time, a student must be registered for at least three and one-half courses. The graduation requirement for a Bachelor of Arts degree is a minimum of 32 full courses.**