Walden University

Office of Financial Aid Program Terms and Conditions

2014–2015

WALDEN UNIVERSITY

A higher degree. A higher purpose.

Updated January 7, 2015

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Office of Financial Aid Program Terms and Conditions

Introduction

Walden University is certified by the U.S. Department of Education as being eligible to participate in the Pell Grant program, the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) program, the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant, and the Federal Direct Loan Program.

The following sections detail the policies related to financial aid programs. Federal regulations that govern the administration of federal aid programs are subject to change. Notification of any regulatory changes will be provided to all students prior to the effective date of the new or revised policy.

Federal Pell Grants

Federal Pell Grants are generally awarded to undergraduate students who have not yet earned a bachelor's or professional degree. All recipients are limited to 12 semesters (or 600%) of Pell Grant eligibility during their lifetime. This change affects all students regardless of when or where they received their first Pell Grant. For more information on how lifetime eligibility is calculated, visit the Department of Education's Pell Lifetime Eligibility website. Students may view their percentage of Pell Grant used by logging into NSLDS.ed.gov. The "Lifetime Eligibility Used" percentage will be displayed in the "Grants" section. The U.S. Department of Education, using a standard needs-based formula established by Congress, determines student Pell eligibility. The Pell Grant maximum for the 2014–2015 award year (July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015) is $5,730. How much students receive depends on their expected family contribution (EFC), cost of attendance, whether they are enrolled full time or part time, and whether they are attending for a full academic year or less. Students may not receive Pell Grant funds from more than one school at a time.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

The Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) program is for undergraduates who are enrolled in their first undergraduate program of study and who have exceptional financial need. Funding is extremely limited. Pell Grant recipients with the lowest expected family contributions (EFC) will first be considered for FSEOG until funds are exhausted. Having a low EFC is not a guarantee that a student will receive the grant. Grant amounts are determined by Walden based on availability of funding. Just like a Pell Grant, this grant does not have to be repaid.

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

The Federal TEACH Grant program is a non-need-based program that currently provides grants of up to $3,708* per year to graduate students enrolled in an eligible program, as defined by Walden University. Students must intend to teach full time in high-need subject areas at schools that serve students from low-income families. Recipients of a TEACH Grant must teach for at least 4 years within 8 years of completing the college program for which the TEACH Grant was awarded (if a student ceases enrollment, he or she loses eligibility). Graduate students may receive up to 2 years of grant funding for a total of $8,000 in lifetime TEACH grant awards. A student may not receive TEACH Grant payments concurrently from more than one school.

Students enrolled less than full time will have their TEACH Grant award reduced according to a schedule established by the U.S. Department of Education. The amount of the TEACH Grant awarded when combined with other student aid cannot exceed a student's cost of attendance. Because total financial aid received must not exceed the cost of attendance, receiving a TEACH Grant may reduce the recipient's eligibility for other sources of financial aid. The TEACH grant cannot be denied if you reach your aggregate maximum on federal loans. This grant is not based on need and does not factor into your aggregate limit on federal loans.

If a student awarded a TEACH Grant either (1) fails to complete the teaching service obligation, (2) ceases enrollment in an eligible program for which the TEACH Grant was received, or (3) does not meet any other requirement as defined by the Department of Education, his or her grant will convert into a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan (Direct Unsubsidized Loan), with interest accrued from the date the grant was disbursed.

It is the student's responsibility to understand all requirements and rules for the TEACH Grant Program.

**A TEACH Grant where the first disbursement is on or after October 1, 2014.*
Due to federal sequestration, TEACH Grant award amounts are subject to change.

Federal Direct Loans

Federal Direct Subsidized Loans are need-based loans available only to undergraduate students. The federal government pays the interest on this loan while the student is enrolled at least half time in school. Students typically have a 6-month repayment grace period for all federal loans. A grace period is a period of time after borrowers graduate, leave school, or drop below half-time enrollment where they are not required to make payments on certain federal student loans. Some federal student loans will accrue interest during the grace period, and if the interest is unpaid, it will be added to the principal balance of the loan when the repayment period begins.

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans are available to undergraduate and graduate students. These loans are not based on need. Students are required to pay the accruing interest while enrolled in school, unless the students arrange to postpone the interest payment by checking the appropriate box indicated on the Master Promissory Note. Students should be careful when choosing this option: It means that the interest will be capitalized (the accrued interest will be added to the principal amount), increasing the amount of the debt.

The interest rates for undergraduate subsidized and unsubsidized Direct Loans disbursed on or after July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014 are fixed at 3.86%.

The interest rates for undergraduate subsidized and unsubsidized Direct Loans disbursed on or after July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 are fixed at 4.66%.

The interest rates for graduate unsubsidized Direct Loans disbursed on or after July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014 are fixed at 5.41%.

The interest rates for graduate unsubsidized Direct Loans disbursed on or after July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 are fixed at 6.21%.

Both the subsidized and the unsubsidized Direct Loans disbursed on or after December 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014 have a 1.072% origination fee.

Both the subsidized and the unsubsidized Direct Loans disbursed on or after October 1, 2014 through November 30, 2015 have a 1.073% origination fee.

Creditworthiness is not a requirement to obtain a Direct Loan (subsidized or unsubsidized). Under this program, students may borrow up to their maximum annual loan limit every award year (i.e., 9 months for quarter-based, 12 months for semester-based programs). Loan funds can be used to cover direct education costs such as tuition, fees, and room and board, as well as indirect costs, such as books and other education-related expenses. Federal Direct Loans borrowed while enrolled at another institution may impact a student's loan eligibility at Walden University. Before any funds are disbursed, students must read important disclosure information regarding their student loan(s). The Disclosure Statement provides information about the Direct Subsidized Loan and/or Direct Unsubsidized Loan that Walden University plans to disburse (pay out) by crediting the student's school account, paying the student directly, or both. There is also a Plain Language Disclosure that will explain the terms of the loan(s). Both disclosures are available at www.studentloans.gov. Students are encourages to keep a copy of all disclosures for their records. All information submitted for the purpose of securing a federal student loan will be submitted to the National Student Loan Database (NSLDS) and accessible by authorized agencies, lenders, and institutions. The student loan borrower is responsible for knowing the total amount of federal loans borrowed. A summary of an individual's federal loan debt is available via the NSLDS website (www.nslds.ed.gov/nslds_SA/).

On August 2, 2011, Congress passed the Budget Control Act of 2011, which put into place automatic federal budget cuts, known as a "sequester." To find out more information, please visit http://ifap.ed.gov/dpcletters/GEN1116.html.

Entrance Counseling

First-time borrowers are required to complete Direct Loan Entrance Counseling prior to receiving the first disbursement of a Direct Loan. Counseling is completed online at https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/counselingInstructions.action and will help students understand their rights and obligations as student loan borrowers. Loan counseling must be completed before students can receive loan funds.

Annual Loan Limits vs. Lifetime Aggregate Loan Limits

Annual Loan Limits

The federal government limits the annual amount of Federal Direct Loan(s) that students can borrow. Walden University defines its annual award year as three quarters or three semesters. Students cannot exceed the annual Direct Loan maximums in the award year. Loans borrowed at a prior institution can impact the student's eligibility at Walden. The financial aid office may ask students to provide additional information about prior loans in order to process new loans at Walden.

Direct Subsidized Loans

Undergraduate annual borrowing ranges from $3,500–$5,500 depending on year in school.

Time Limitation on Direct Subsidized Loan Eligibility for First-Time Borrowers on or After July, 2013

The federal government has placed a new time limit on Federal Direct Subsidized Loans for first-time borrowers on or after July 1, 2013. A first-time borrower is someone with no outstanding student loan debt as of July 1, 2013. In general, a first-time borrower may not receive Federal Direct Subsidized Loans for more than 150% of the published length of the bachelor's degree or undergraduate certificate programs as measured in academic years. This is called the "maximum eligibility period." For the Walden bachelor's degree programs, the Federal Direct Subsidized Loan maximum eligibility period is 6.5 academic years. For the Undergraduate Certificate in Homeland Security, the limit is 1.5 academic years. An academic year is 3 quarters. Prior subsidized usage will count toward the students' maximum. Click here for more information: http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/051613DirectSubsidizedLoanLimit150PercentAnnounce1.html

Direct Unsubsidized Loans

- **Undergraduate** annual borrowing ranges are from $5,500–$12,500 (less Direct Subsidized Loan eligibility) depending on year in school and dependency status.
- **Graduate** student annual borrowing maximum is $20,500.
- **Teacher Preparation Students or Endorsement Students** who do not choose the M.S. degree option have a borrowing maximum of $12,500.
- **Students Enrolled in Preparatory Courses for the Master of Science in Nursing** (MSN) have a borrowing maximum of $12,500.

All graduate student loans are unsubsidized for loan periods that began on or after July 1, 2012.

Graduate PLUS Loans and Parent PLUS Loans are also processed based on three terms per award year. They are limited annually by the cost of attendance minus any financial aid received.

Lifetime Aggregate Loan Limits

The federal government limits the aggregate amount of Federal Direct Loans that students can borrow in their lifetime. The lifetime aggregate limits for Federal Family Education (FFEL) Program and Direct Loans are as follows:

- **Graduate students:** $138,500 combined (only $65,500 may be subsidized; includes amounts borrowed as an undergraduate student).
- **Dependent undergraduate students:** $31,000 combined (only $23,000 may be subsidized).
- **Independent undergraduate students:** $57,500 combined (only $23,000 may be subsidized).
- **Parent PLUS Loans and Graduate PLUS Loans** do not have a lifetime maximum.
- Student loan borrowers are responsible for knowing the total amount of federal loans they have borrowed. Having sufficient remaining eligibility is important to a student's ability to successfully complete his or her academic program. A summary of each student's federal loan debt is available via the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDA) at www.nslds.ed.gov.

Exceeding Annual or Aggregate Loan Limits

The Student Aid Report (SAR) may indicate that a student has inadvertently borrowed in excess of the Federal Direct Loan limits. For example, a prior institution may have inadvertently allowed a student to borrow federal undergraduate loans in excess of undergraduate limits while not exceeding the graduate loan limits. Before Walden can award graduate-level Direct Loans to the student, the student must reaffirm the debt by either consolidating the prior loans that exceed the limits or by obtaining a reaffirmation letter from the holder of the loans. Another example would be if a prior institution inadvertently allowed a student to exceed graduate loan limits. Before Walden can award Federal Graduate PLUS Loans, the student must reaffirm the debt by either consolidating the prior loans that exceed the limits or by obtaining a reaffirmation letter from the holder of the loans.

Undergraduate Students: Direct Loan Maximums*

Grade Level	**Dependent** Undergraduate Student	**Independent** Undergraduate Student
Year 1* (0–44 credits)	$5,500—Only $3,500 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.	$9,500—Only $3,500 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.
Year 2* (45–89 credits)	$6,500—Only $4,500 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.	$10,500—Only $4,500 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.
Years 3–4*(90+ credits)	$7,500—Only $5,500 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.	$12,500—Only $5,500 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.
Lifetime Maximum Total Debt from Stafford and Direct Loans (in each status)	$31,000—Only $23,000 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.	$57,500—Only $23,000 of this amount may be subsidized loans.

Dependent undergraduate students whose parents have been denied a Federal Parent Loan are eligible to borrow at the independent undergraduate level. Students in undergraduate certificate programs or who are in the last two terms of their academic program may be eligible for reduced amounts due to required prorating.

Graduate Students: Direct Loan Maximums

Timeframe	Graduate (**Master's, Ed.S., Doctoral, Post-Doctoral, Graduate Certificate**) Students	**Teacher Preparation** Students or **Endorsement** Students Who Do Not Choose the M.S. Degree Option		Students Enrolled in **Preparatory Courses** for the **Master of Science in Nursing** (MSN)	
		Dependent Students	Independent Students	Dependent Students	Independent Students
Per Academic Year	$20,500	$7,500	$12,500	$7,500 Note: Students are eligible for this loan for one consecutive 12-month period.	$12,500 Note: Students are eligible for this loan for one consecutive 12-month period.
Lifetime Maximum Total Debt From Direct Loans	$138,500 Note: The graduate debt limit includes Stafford Loans and Direct Loans received for undergraduate study.	$31,000	$57,500	$31,000	$57,500

Exit Counseling

To help students manage their student loans after graduation, federal regulations also require that they complete exit loan counseling. Exit loan counseling is available online at https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/counselingInstructions.action.

The timing to complete *an Exit Counseling* form is: Before graduation. Before transferring to another institution. Before withdrawal and leaves of absence. When enrolled less than half time.

Federal Student Loan Repayment Plans

Federal Direct and Stafford Loans offer several repayment plan options. Some of the options carry a lower monthly payment than standard repayment, but choosing these extends the term of the loan and increases the total amount of interest paid during the life of the loan. Learn about the various options and your ability to move between plans by visiting http://studentaid.ed.gov/repay-loans.

Repayment Estimator is a tool that William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) and Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) program borrowers can use to obtain preliminary repayment plan eligibility information and estimated repayment amounts. This easy-to-use tool offers borrowers the opportunity to obtain preliminary repayment information across all of the repayment plans. Its advantage over repayment plan-specific calculators is that it provides side-by-side results for all plans and information about the total cost of a loan over time. The new Repayment Estimator is available for borrower use on the www.studentloans.gov website.

1. **Standard Repayment**. On a standard repayment plan, a borrower pays a fixed monthly amount for a loan term of up to 10 years, with a $50 minimum monthly payment.

2. **Extended Repayment**. Extended repayment is like standard repayment, but allows a loan term of 12 to 30 years, depending on the amount borrowed. Stretching out the payments over a longer term reduces the size of the monthly payment, but increases the total amount repaid during the life of the loan.

3. **Graduated Repayment**. Graduated repayment starts off with lower monthly payments, which gradually increase every two years. The loan term is 12–30 years, depending on the amount borrowed. The monthly payment must be at least $25 and will amount to at least the interest accruing.

4. **Income-Based Repayment**. This is a new plan started in 2009 for all federal loan borrowers. Income-based repayment extends the term for up to 25 years and bases the monthly repayment amount on the borrower's income, resets annually, and caps the monthly payments at a lower percentage of income than income-contingent repayment. If income is low enough, the interest that accrues is waived for a fixed period of time. At the end of 25 years, any remaining balance on the loan will be canceled, and the amount canceled is taxable.

5. **Income-Contingent Repayment**. This applies only to Direct Loans. Monthly payments are based on the borrower's income and total amount of debt. Payments are adjusted each year as the borrower's income changes. The loan term is up to 25 years. At the end of 25 years, the remaining balance on the loan will be canceled, and the amount canceled is taxable. A $5 minimum monthly payment is required.

6. **Income-Sensitive Repayment**. With an income-sensitive plan, the borrower's monthly loan payment is based on annual income. As income increases or decreases, so do the payments. The maximum repayment period is 10 years. Borrowers should ask their lender for more information on FFEL Program Income-Sensitive Repayment Plans. Direct Loans are not eligible for this repayment plan.

7. **Pay As You Earn**. Borrowers with eligible student loans may qualify for this program, that includes a repayment based on income, interest payment benefits, limitation on capitalization of interest and loan forgiveness, if the borrower qualifies. Borrowers should speak with their loan servicer for more information on this program.

Loan Deferments

Under certain circumstances, an enrolled borrower is entitled to have the repayment of a loan deferred. During deferment, the borrower is not required to pay loan principal, and interest on subsidized loans does not accrue. After the in-school deferment, the borrower is entitled to one grace period of six consecutive months. The date that the deferment starts may affect the length of the grace period.

Students who have a valid Social Security number on file at Walden will have their enrollment reported and updated monthly with the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC). The NSC communicates electronically with the federal and non-federal loan servicers to insure that students who remain enrolled maintain the in-school deferments for which they are eligible.

Walden's Policy

Students who seek to defer repayment of their prior student loans and do not want to rely on the electronic exchange with the NSC must fill out forms to have their enrollment status verified. Students must get the forms from their lender(s) and send them directly to:

Walden University
Office of the Registrar
Attn: Loan Deferment
650 S. Exeter Street
Baltimore, MD 21202
Fax: 1-410-843-6416

At the top of the form, students should include their enrollment start date and the term for which they are requesting an in-school deferment.

Note: Any deferment paperwork sent to Walden's registrar's office for enrollment verification is forwarded to the NSC on a weekly basis.

Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loans

Federal Direct Graduate PLUS loans are available to graduate students enrolled at least half time who do not have an adverse credit history. Students may borrow up to the cost of attendance minus any other aid. The total education cost may include tuition, living allowance, books and supplies, and transportation. Graduate students must use their Direct Unsubsidized loan eligibility prior to applying for a Direct Graduate Plus Loan.

The interest rate for Graduate PLUS loans disbursed on or after July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014 is fixed at 6.41%, with interest beginning to accrue upon disbursement.

The interest rate for Graduate PLUS loans disbursed on or after July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 is fixed at 7.21%, with interest beginning to accrue upon disbursement.

Federal Direct Graduate PLUS loans disbursed on or after December 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014 have a 4.288% origination fee.

Federal Direct Graduate PLUS loans disbursed on or after October 1, 2014 through November 30, 2015 have a 4.292% origination fee. The interest cap is 10.5%.

Process

- If one has not been submitted for the current year, the student completes the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (http://www.fafsa.gov/).
- Student completes the Direct Graduate PLUS Loan Request, Direct Graduate PLUS Master Promissory Note (MPN), and Graduate Level Direct Loan Entrance Counseling. All forms are available online at http://www.studentloans.gov/.
- The Office of Financial Aid receives Direct Graduate PLUS MPN and the Approved/Endorsed Graduate PLUS Loan Record from U.S. Department of Education (ED) and adds the Graduate PLUS award to myFinAid.
- Student goes to myFinAid to accept, reduce, or decline the Graduate PLUS award amount.
- If student is registered and all official transcripts are on file with the Office of Admissions, the Office of Financial Aid sends a Direct Graduate PLUS Loan origination record to ED.

Decisions

The U.S. Department of Education is responsible for all Graduate PLUS Loan credit decisions. Graduate PLUS Loan borrowers are required to pass a simplified credit check, meaning that the U.S. Department of Education is not looking for a certain credit score or for an extensive credit history, but simply the absence of an adverse credit history. Students can view the status of their application by logging in to www.studentloans.gov or by calling Federal Direct Loans at 1-800-848-0979.

Federal Direct PLUS Loans for Undergraduate Students (PLUS)

Federal PLUS Loans are available to all parents of dependent undergraduate students regardless of income. Qualification is based solely on good credit. You must be the student's biological or adoptive parent or the student's stepparent, if the biological or adoptive parent has remarried at the time of application. Your child must be a dependent student who is enrolled at least half-time at Walden. There are no debt-to-income ratio guidelines or employment verification requirements. Parents may borrow up to the total education cost for the year, minus any other financial aid that the student is receiving. The total education cost can include tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, transportation, and living allowance.

The interest rate for Parent PLUS loans disbursed on or after July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014 is fixed at 6.41%, with interest beginning to accrue upon disbursement until it is paid in full. The interest rate for Parent PLUS loans disbursed on or after July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 is fixed at 7.21%, with interest beginning to accrue upon disbursement until it is repaid in full.

Federal Direct Parent PLUS loans disbursed on or after December 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014 have a 4.288% origination fee.

Federal Direct Parent PLUS loans disbursed on or after October 1, 2014 through November 30, 2015 have a 4.292% origination fee.

PLUS loan repayment normally begins within 60 calendar days after the loan has been fully disbursed. In certain circumstances, parents may elect to repay the loan on a graduated repayment schedule, making interest-only payments (the minimum amount is based on the term of the loan and must be at least $50 per month) for a portion of the repayment term.

Process

The student completes the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at http://www.fafsa.gov/ if one has not been submitted for the current year.
The parent completes the Parent PLUS Loan Request and Parent PLUS Master Promissory Note (MPN), and the student completes undergraduate-level Direct Loan Entrance Counseling. All forms are available online at http://www.studentloans.gov/.
The Office of Financial Aid receives the Direct Parent PLUS MPN and the approved/endorsed Parent PLUS Loan Record from the U.S. Department of Education and adds the Parent PLUS award to myFinAid.

The student goes to myFinAid to accept, reduce, or decline the Parent PLUS award amount.
If the student is registered and all official transcripts are on file with the Office of Admissions, the Office of Financial Aid sends a Direct Parent PLUS Loan origination record to the Department of Education.

Decisions

The Department of Education is responsible for all Parent PLUS Loan credit decisions. Parent PLUS Loan borrowers are required to pass a simplified credit check, meaning that the Department of Education is not looking for a certain credit score or for an extensive credit history but simply the absence of an adverse credit history. Students can view the status of their parents' application by logging in to www.studentloans.gov or by calling Federal Direct Loans at 1-800-848-0979.

Department of Education Student Loan Ombudsman

The Walden Office of Financial Aid is always ready to assist with any questions or concerns regarding student loans. If loan issues cannot be resolved, the Department of Education's Office of the Ombudsman for student loan issues is available. An ombudsman resolves disputes from a neutral and independent viewpoint. The federal student aid ombudsman will informally research a borrower problem and suggest solutions to resolve the problem. Student borrowers can contact the department's Office of the Ombudsman via the following:

Online assistance: http://studentaid.ed.gov/repay-loans/disputes/prepare
Toll-free telephone: 1-877-557-2575
Fax: 1-202-275-0549
Mail: U.S. Department of Education FSA Ombudsman Group
830 First Street NE, Fourth Floor, Washington, D.C. 20202-5144

Private Education Loans

Comparing Private Loans and Federal Loans

Private education loans may have significant disadvantages when compared with federal education loans. We strongly encourage students to first borrow any federal loans for which they are eligible. The chart below will help in understanding the differences between federal and private loan funds.

Comparison Chart of Federal and Private Education Loans

	Federal Loans	Private Loans
Credit Check Required?	Direct Loan: No PLUS/GradPLUS: Yes (limited)	Yes
Credit Score or Debt-to-Income Considered?	Direct Loan: No PLUS/GradPLUS: No	Yes
Co-Signer Required?	Direct Loan: No PLUS/GradPLUS: Usually no	Usually yes
Deferment Options	Several options	Depends on lender
Grace Period	Direct Loan: 6 months	Depends on lender
Interest Rate	Undergraduate—Direct Loan Subsidized/Unsubsidized: The interest rates for undergraduate subsidized and unsubsidized Direct Loans disbursed on or after July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014 are fixed at 3.86%. The interest rates for undergraduate subsidized and unsubsidized Direct Loans disbursed on or after July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 are fixed at 4.66%. The interest rates for graduate unsubsidized Direct Loans disbursed on or after July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014 are fixed at 5.41%. The interest rates for graduate unsubsidized Direct Loans disbursed on or after July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 are fixed at 6.21%. The interest rate for PLUS/Graduate PLUS loans disbursed on or after July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014 is fixed at 6.41%, with interest beginning to accrue upon disbursement. The interest rate for PLUS/Graduate PLUS loans disbursed on or after July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 is fixed at 7.21%, with interest beginning to accrue upon disbursement.	Usually variable
Loan Fees	Both the subsidized and the unsubsidized Direct Loans disbursed on or after December 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014 have a 1.072% origination fee. Both the subsidized and the unsubsidized Direct Loans disbursed on or after October 1, 2014 through November 30, 2015 have a 1.073% origination fee. Federal Direct PLUS/Graduate PLUS loans disbursed on or after December 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014 have a 4.288% origination fee. Federal Direct PLUS/Graduate PLUS loans disbursed on or after October 1, 2014 through November 30, 2015 have a 4.292% origination fee.	Depends on lender
Flexible Repayment Options	Many options available	Generally none
Loan Forgiveness Options	Several options available	Generally none
Penalties for Early Repayment	None	Depends on lender

Choosing a Private Loan

When choosing a private education loan, students should compare the loan terms offered by several lenders in order to choose the best fit for their situation. A resource for finding active private education loan programs is www.elmselect.com/Home/Index. When choosing a lender, borrowers should make sure that Walden students are eligible for the lender's programs.

Several points that should be researched when considering a private loan:

- What is the interest rate? Is it fixed or variable? Is the rate capped?
- What fees must be paid for this loan and when are they paid?
- How will the student receive loan funds?
- When does repayment begin, and is there a grace period?
- What will the monthly payment be?
- What will be the total cost if the student uses the full repayment period?
- Are there penalties for early repayment?
- Are there deferment, forbearance, or cancellation options?

Most private loan programs require the Office of Financial Aid to certify a student's eligibility before approving the loan. If students receive financial aid, they must notify the financial aid office of any private loans they borrow, as it may affect their aid eligibility.

Truth in Lending Act

Under the Federal Truth in Lending Act (TILA), the lender must provide the following documents:

- ***Self-Certification Form***: Students must complete this form and return it to the lender before receiving their first disbursement of loan funds.
- ***Final Disclosure and Right-to-Cancel Period***: After the student signs the promissory note, the Final Disclosure Statement confirms the terms and conditions of the loan. At the time that this final disclosure is delivered, the right-to-cancel period begins. During this period of three to six days, the student may cancel the loan by contacting the lender. The lender cannot release the first disbursement of the loan funds until the end of the right-to-cancel period.

State Grant Aid

Some states have a reciprocity policy for their state grants. Check with the appropriate state agency as indicated here:
http://wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov/Programs/EROD/org_list.cfm?category_ID=SHE

Financial Aid Application Process

Applying for federal financial assistance is a two-part process consisting of (1) application and notification of eligibility, and (2) completion of the Master Promissory Note (MPN), entrance counseling, and online Financial Aid Policy Review (FAPR) information. This process takes approximately two to four weeks from the initial application through the receipt of funds. Students are strongly encouraged to begin the application process at least eight weeks prior to the beginning of their start date or renewal date to ensure the following deadlines are met.

The **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** should be submitted at least four weeks prior to the student's effective start date, as well as prior to each subsequent loan renewal date.

A fully executed MPN, entrance counseling, and online FAPR must be on file in the financial aid office no later than 14 calendar days after the student is notified of the award.

Fill out the 2013–2014 FAFSA if you are starting your program on or after June 1, 2013.
Fill out the 2014–2015 FAFSA if you are starting your program on or after June 1, 2014.

Walden University strongly suggests that all students who are eligible and who filed a federal tax return use the IRS Data Retrieval tool when filling out their FAFSA on the Web. Using the IRS Data Retrieval tool may expedite the verification and awarding process.

Note: Walden University's Title IV code is 025042. Students will need the code when filling out their FAFSA.

Verification Policy

In accordance with U.S. Department of Education regulations, Walden University is required to verify the accuracy of financial aid application information for selected students. Walden University strongly suggests that all students who are eligible and who filed a federal tax return use the IRS Data Retrieval tool when filling out their FAFSA on the Web. Using the IRS Data Retrieval tool may expedite the verification and awarding process. If students are required to submit their tax information, they must now submit an official IRS tax return transcript if they do not use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) successfully. Students can obtain an IRS Tax Return Transcript by: (1) Ordering a transcript online at www.irs.gov, Get Transcript of Your Tax Records; (2) calling 1-800-908-9946 to request a copy to be mailed through an automated system; (3) filling out Form 4506T-EZ www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f4506tez.pdf and mailing it to the IRS, or (4) using Smart Phone Mobile app IRS2Go.

In addition, for the 2013–2014 award year and forward, students who are randomly selected for verification may also have to provide to the Office of Financial Aid their High School Completion Status documentation, proof of their identity, and a signed Educational Statement of Purpose. Once the required documents are received in the Office of Financial Aid, the normal processing time is 7–14 business days. Participation in the verification process is not optional. If students do not complete it by the end of the enrollment period, they will not be able to receive federal financial assistance for that award year.

Please be aware that if students intentionally misreport information and/or alter documentation for the purpose of increasing aid eligibility or fraudulently obtaining federal funds, they will be reported to the U.S. Department of Education Office of the Inspector General or to local law enforcement officials.

Unusual Enrollment History Flag

Beginning with the 2013–2014 award year, the U.S. Department of Education added the Unusual Enrollment History Flag to the ISIR (Institutional Student Information Record). This flag indicates whether students have an unusual enrollment history in regard to the receipt of Federal Pell Grant funds. The U.S. Department of Education enforced this process to determine if Pell Grant recipients were enrolling with the sole purpose of collecting Title IV credit balances.

Financial Aid Deadlines

The Office of Financial Aid processes awards on a rolling basis. It is recommended that students have a complete Financial Aid Application at least 4 weeks prior to the start of a term, but students must have a complete Financial Aid Application 30 days prior to the end of the term in order for funds to be processed for that term. A complete Financial Aid Application includes all documents required for the awarding and disbursing of funds. Required documents may include but are not limited to the following items:

- Proof of Social Security number
- Proof of legal name
- Proof of date of birth
- Proof of citizenship
- Proof of registration with the Selective Service
- Proof of High School Completion Status
- Official IRS tax return transcript (personal copies of tax returns are no longer acceptable)
- Copies of W-2 forms
- Documentation of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits
- Documentation of child support paid
- Documentation of federal student loan default resolution
- Documentation of federal student grant overpayment resolution
- Academic records from previously attended institutions

Students must also maintain all federal aid eligibility requirements for the entire term.

New students: Award notifications will be made to students with completed financial aid files. However, financial aid cannot be processed until all official transcripts are received by the Office of Admissions.

Current students: If a student is beginning a new Walden program within a term after completing a Walden program, financial aid for the new program cannot be disbursed until the student's degree/certificate is conferred by the Office of the Registrar.

- The Office of Financial Aid will continue to accept applications, offer awards, and process disbursements in the last 30 days of the term, but cannot be held responsible if funds are not able to disburse for the term. Delays outside of the control of the Office of Financial Aid can occur. For example, a student may not be able to obtain third-party documentation, such as Selective Service status information letters, overlapping financial aid forms, official transcripts, and Graduate PLUS endorsers in a timely manner.

Financial Aid Notifications

The *myFinAid* Web portal is the student's 24/7 source for financial aid information for students who complete the FAFSA. The Office of Financial Aid will notify the student when updates including award notifications and changes are made to financial aid information on *myFinAid;* however, financial aid recipients are responsible for checking their *myFinAid* page periodically for any updates. Students may contact the Office of Financial Aid via email (mail to: finaid@waldenu.edu) or telephone (1-800-925-3368).

Students who complete the FAFSA will receive a SAR. Students should **read the SAR** carefully as it contains **important** information about the student's eligibility.

Student Eligibility Requirements

To receive aid from any of the federal student aid programs administered by Walden University's Office of Financial Aid, a student must meet all of the following criteria:

- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen;
- Have a high school diploma or a GED certificate;
- Enroll in an eligible program as a regular student seeking a degree or certificate;
- Register (or have registered) with the Selective Service, if required;
- Have a valid Social Security number;
- Meet satisfactory academic progress (SAP) standards;
- Not be in default on any federal student loan nor owe an overpayment on a federal student grant; and
- Not exceed the lifetime aggregate or annual loan limits without documentation that the debt has been reaffirmed.

Be advised that a conviction for any offense during a period of enrollment for which a student is receiving Title IV financial aid, under any federal or state law involving the possession or sale of illegal drugs, will result in the loss of eligibility for any Title IV grant, loan, or work assistance.

Attended Another School? Overlapping Financial Aid

Federal aid received at another institution can impact the amount of federal aid that a student may receive at Walden. As required by federal regulations, Walden participates in the federal transfer monitoring process whereby the U.S. Department of Education may take up to 90 days

into the start of a student's first term to notify Walden that the student has federal aid awarded at another institution that overlaps into his or her enrollment dates at Walden. The Office of Financial Aid may not be able to make an initial award offer to a student or may have to cancel aid that has already been awarded if it receives information that the student has applied for and/or received federal aid at another institution for an overlapping period. For example, if the loan period at a student's prior institution ends even one day after his or her start quarter/semester at Walden, the student has an overlapping period and Walden must deduct aid received at the other institution from the student's annual eligibility at Walden. If the loan information is not already updated on the U.S. Department of Education's Common Origination & Disbursement (COD) website, the Walden University financial aid office may ask a student to have his or her prior institution complete an *Overlapping Financial Aid* form to confirm the last date of attendance and disbursed loan amounts at the prior institution.

When processing a financial aid award for an overlapping loan period, Walden will cap the total loan at one-third of a student's annual loan limit per semester or quarter (subsidized loans are applicable to undergraduates only). To prevent duplication of the living allowance between schools, Walden must remove the living allowance from the student's cost of attendance at Walden during periods of overlapping enrollment. Students must make alternative arrangements for payment if they become ineligible for federal aid based on aid received at another institution.

Financial Aid Annual Award Year Definition

Walden defines the annual award year as three 12-week quarters or three 16-week semesters.

Enrollment Policy

Undergraduate Students: Financial aid is offered based on the assumption that undergraduate students will be enrolled for 9–11 credits per 12-week quarter for the entire period of the award. When students enroll for fewer credits in a term, their aid may be adjusted at the end of the "add/drop" period to reflect their current enrollment status. Students must be enrolled at least half time to remain eligible for federal student loans. Undergraduate students enroll in two sequential courses over the 12-week quarter. Students should register for both courses before the start of the 12-week quarter to avoid disbursement delays. *Please note that if both courses are in the second 6 weeks of the quarter, the disbursement will be delayed until day 12 of the course.*

Graduate Students: Financial aid is offered for most programs based on the assumption that students will be enrolled in at least 6 credits per term for the entire period of the award. When students enroll for fewer credits in a term, their aid may be adjusted at the end of the "add/drop" period to reflect their current enrollment status. Students must be enrolled at least half time to remain eligible for federal student aid.

Courses that do not count toward the degree or certificate: Generally speaking, in order to receive financial aid, students must be taking classes that count toward a degree or certificate offered at Walden. If students are enrolled in courses that do not count toward their degree or certificate, they cannot be used to determine enrollment status. For additional information, contact the Office of Financial Aid.

Enrollment Statuses for Financial Aid

Enrollment Status	Graduate Students (Graduate Certificate, Master's, Ed.S., Doctoral, Post-Doctoral) Students	Undergraduate Students	Students Enrolled in Preparatory Courses for the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)
Full time	6 credits per term	12 or more credits per term	12 credits per term
Three-quarter time	5 credits per term	9–11 credits per term	9–11 credits per term
Half time	3–4 credits per term	6–8 credits per term	6–8 credits per term
Less than half time	1–2 credits per term	1–5 credits per term	1–5 credits per term

Residency Policy

Students cannot receive financial aid for any term in which they register only for a residency. The financial aid office reviews registrations at the start of each term and cancels federal aid for any students registered for residency only. Students who cannot register for a regular course along with the residency are responsible for managing their student loan refunds to be sure they can pay for residency travel expenses when they arise.

Study at Another Institution or Study Abroad

Enrollment in certain programs of study at another school or study abroad approved for credit by Walden may be considered enrollment at Walden for the purpose of applying for assistance under the Federal Title IV financial aid programs.

For students to access federal financial aid, a consortium agreement is required between the two schools whereby the home school disburses federal aid for courses taken at the host school. The host school agrees not to disburse federal aid and to monitor the student's enrollment for the home school. Consortium agreements may be made between Walden University (home school) and a host school if the student has been approved by Walden to take coursework at the host institution that will fully transfer toward the Walden degree program. Walden degree-seeking students must submit a copy of the Walden University *Permission to Take a Course at Another Institution* form that is signed by Walden's Admissions Office and a *Consortium Agreement form signed by the host school's financial aid office to the Walden Office of Financial Aid.*

Students must also meet all other federal financial aid eligibility requirements. If Walden approves the student for a consortium agreement, Walden University will disburse federal aid to

the Walden student account, and the bursar's office will issue the refund to the student. The student is responsible for meeting payment deadlines set by the host school. Walden University does not typically pay the host school on behalf of the student, and Walden University does not alter the financial aid disbursement schedule to meet deadlines set by the host school.

Adjustments to Financial Aid

Federal financial aid is awarded based on an estimate of the student's eligibility. The Office of Financial Aid may have to cancel or reduce financial aid before or after disbursement, based on new information that becomes available after the time of awarding or disbursement. Examples of changes that would require adjustments to aid are:

- Student does not begin attendance in any courses.
- Pell recipient does not begin attendance in all courses of the term.
- Student withdraws from all courses in the term (officially or unofficially).
- Student receives other resources not reported at the time of awarding or disbursement.
- Student becomes federally ineligible based on the receipt of updated information from the U.S. Department of Education.
- Student does not meet course participation requirements.
- Student enrolls in only one course, which may require an adjustment of federal aid. (Most students are awarded based on the assumption of enrollment in two classes per quarter/semester.)
- Change of program.

Note: In some instances, a federal Return of Title IV (R2T4) calculation will be required. Details may be found in a later section of this document.

Confirmation of Return Enrollment After Withdrawal From Part of a Term

Students who withdraw from a course in the first part of a term and remain registered for a course in the second part of a term will be asked to confirm that they plan to return. Federal rules do not allow Walden to rely on a student's previous registration if he or she withdraws from the first course. If the student indicates that he or she will return, and he or she does not return, a federal Return of Title IV funds calculation will be processed using the earlier withdrawal date.

Withdrawal From a Term

Students withdrawing from any or all courses in the term prior to the completion of 60% of the quarter/semester may find that funds are owed to the university as a result of the required Return of Title IV calculation process.

Students who stop engaging in academically related activities during the term without officially withdrawing from the courses are subject to the Return of Title IV calculation. In such cases, the last date of academically related activity, as determined by the university, is used as the withdrawal date for the term.

Please note withdrawal is different from drop. Dropping is when you enroll in a course and decide not to stay enrolled any time before it starts or within the first seven days. If you discontinue taking a course after the seventh day, then you will be considered having withdrawn from that point on.

Prior to withdrawing from all courses in the term or ceasing to engage in academically related activity, students should contact the Office of Financial Aid to determine the amount of federal aid that must be returned. Federal student aid may not cover all unpaid charges due to the university upon the student's withdrawal.

Leave of Absence

A student who takes a university approved leave of absence is considered, for financial aid purposes, to have withdrawn from the school. The Return to Title IV refund calculation applies to both university approved leaves of absence and withdrawals for recipients of Title IV aid. When a student loan borrower begins a university approved leave of absence, the student's repayment begins after the grace period is over. Students are advised that once a grace period is utilized, there is no provision allowing an additional grace period and students will go into repayment. Students with federal financial aid or federal loan obligations are advised to contact their servicer to ascertain their loan repayment status during the leave of absence.

Overaward of Federal Aid

The receipt of additional estimated financial assistance and/or a reduction in the cost of attendance that was not accounted for at the time of initial awarding may cause an overaward of federal funds. (The term overaward refers to any estimated aid that exceeds a student's financial need and/or cost of attendance.) Estimated financial assistance includes but is not limited to the following: scholarships, grants, Graduate PLUS Loans, third-party payments, and other resources. In such instances, the Office of Financial Aid will correct the overaward by adjusting the federal financial aid award. Federal aid may be adjusted by reducing or reallocating funds prior to disbursement or returning funds to federal programs if disbursement has already occurred. The highest cost loans will be reduced before any reduction is made to scholarship or grant awards.

Financial Aid Disbursement Process and Requests for Excess Funds

Most financial aid is disbursed in three equal payments over the award period. Students in good standing may have any excess balance in their account returned to them to pay for indirect education expenses. Any time financial aid proceeds credited to a student's account exceed direct charges, the bursar's office will automatically forward the credit balance directly to the student, no later than 14 calendar days after the credit balance occurs.

If students are not subject to Adequate Academic Progress (AAP) as first-time undergraduate students, they receive Pell Grants, and their financial aid will create a credit balance, they may request book vouchers here:
https://inside.waldenu.edu/c/Student_Faculty/OnlineForm_BookLoan.aspx.

Students are responsible for payment of tuition and fees incurred after a full credit balance refund has been released (e.g., added courses and residencies fees). Credit balance refund distributions are made in accordance with applicable federal guidelines. Any outstanding debt to the university as a result of a required credit balance refund is the responsibility of the student.

Unless students are subject to the AAP process outlined in the following section, financial aid generally begins disbursing on day 12 of the term and refunds are released to eligible students by day 26 of the term (14 days after funds have disbursed to the student's account). Students must participate in their online coursework to establish eligibility and remain eligible for federal aid. Failure to participate in academically related activity will result in loss of eligibility for all or part of the term.

If two sequential courses make up a student's quarter or semester and he or she does not register for the first half of the quarter/semester, federal aid cannot disburse until day 12 of the second half of the term. Disbursements may be delayed if the student is subject to a Satisfactory Academic Progress review for a prior term.

Adequate Academic Progress (AAP)

All new undergraduate students are conditionally admitted to Walden University until they demonstrate adequate academic progress. Financial aid cannot be disbursed to a Walden student account until the student has met the AAP requirements as set forth in the Walden University Student Handbook. Conditionally admitted students will not have book vouchers available as an option. Once conditions and all other eligibility requirements have been met, federal financial aid will disburse. Disbursements to a new undergraduate student's Walden account can be expected to occur by the close of the fourth week of the term. Students will receive a notice of disbursement. The bursar's office releases refunds to eligible students 14 days after the date of disbursement. ***Please note****: Should the student not meet the minimum requirements for AAP, his or her financial aid offer will be canceled.*

Refund Policy for Minnesota GI Bill Program (MN OHE GI Bill)

Minnesota GI Bill (MGIB) financial aid recipients who do not complete the required MGIB period of instruction may not be entitled to keep the full amount of MGIB financial aid disbursed to them.

Federal Return of Title IV (R2T4) Funds

Students who withdraw, drop, or do not otherwise complete all of the courses that they are scheduled to attend in the term may have disbursed funds returned to the federal government. This includes students who stop engaging in academically related activities in any or all courses during the term.

Federal regulations established by the U.S. Department of Education require the Office of Financial Aid to apply a formula, entitled Return to Title IV (R2T4), to determine the percentage of federal financial aid a student has earned up through the last date of academic ally related activity in any or all courses during the term.

Students withdrawing from any course(s) in the term prior to the completion of 60% of the quarter/semester may find that funds are owed to the university as a result of the R2T4.

The following enrollment changes that may trigger an R2T4:

- Withdrawal to zero credits (official withdrawal through the university policy)
- Official Leave of Absence during the term.
- Lack of engagement in academically related activities for at least 14 consecutive days in the term.
- For consecutive enrollment within a term, withdrawal from an earlier course with no confirmation of return in a later course.
- For consecutive enrollment within a term, dropping, not attending, or withdrawing from a later course, even after the completion of an earlier course.
- For consecutive enrollment within a term, failure to earn a passing grade in the last course in the term, even after passing an earlier course.
- Failure to earn a passing grade in all courses attempted in the term.

The last date of academically related activity, as determined by the university, is used as the financial aid withdrawal date to determine the completion percentage for R2T4. Students who complete more than 60% of the term are considered to have earned 100% of the federal financial aid disbursed to them for the term. Students who do not complete more than 60% of the term will have all or a portion of disbursed funds returned to the federal government.

The withdrawal date for federal financial aid purposes is not the same as the withdrawal date processed by the Registrar to determine tuition adjustments. Federal student aid may not cover all charges due to the university that result from the return of funds upon the student's withdrawal.

Prior to withdrawing or making any enrollment changes, students should contact the office of financial aid to determine if the change will result in a return of funds and to understand the financial options to get back on track for future terms.

Examples of Title IV Calculations

Example 1—Enrollment in Modules:

Allyssa is an undergraduate student enrolled in the B.S. in Computer Information Systems program. Her fall term enrollment is from September 2 through November 23. She is enrolled in two back-to-back classes for the term. The first class is from September 2 through October 12. The second class is from October 13 through November 23. Allyssa successfully completes the first class but decides on October 15 to drop her second class.

Allyssa's cost of attendance is as follows:	Cost
Tuition	$3100
Fees	$120
Total	$3220
Allyssa's financial aid package consists of:	
Federal Direct Subsidized Loan	$1,154
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan	$1,979
Total	$3,133
Allyssa completed 42 days of the term (September 2 through October 12).	
Walden is required to return the following:	
Federal Direct Subsidized Loan	$0
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan	$1,567
After refunding the $1,567, Allyssa will owe Walden:	$17

Allyssa received a tuition cancellation of $1,550 for dropping the class. After funds were returned to reduce her federal student loan, she had a balance of $17.

Example 2—Failing All Classes or the Last Class:

Fred is master's degree student. His fall term is from September 2 through November 23. He is enrolled in two classes for the fall. The first class is from September 2 through October 12 and the second class begins September 6 and ends on November 23. Fred receives Fs in both classes. The latest day that Fred actively participated in either class was September 18.

Fred's cost of attendance is as follows:	Cost
Tuition	$3100
Fees	$120
Total	$3200
Fred's financial aid package consists of:	Cost
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan	$6,800
Total	$6,800

Fred completed 17 days of the term (September 2 through September 18).

Walden is required to return the following:	
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan	$2,570
After returning the $2,570 to the government, Fred owes Walden:	$2,570

A bursar hold is placed on Fred's account at the time that funds are returned to the government, which prevents Fred from registering for any additional classes and from receiving his academic transcripts until he repays Walden what he owes.

Example 3—Withdrawal From Term:

Susie is a doctoral degree student in public policy. Her quarter term begins on December 1 and ends on February 22. On January 11 she stops participating while trying to decide if she will drop her classes. Susie makes the decision to drop all classes on January 15, but her last day of participation is January 11 (42 days into the term).

Susie's cost of attendance is as follows:	Cost
Tuition	$4,550
Fees	$160
Total	$4,710
Susie's financial aid package consists of:	Cost
Direct Unsubsidized Loan	$6,800
Total	$6,800

As Susie has completed only 42 days of her semester, she earned 50% of the $6,800. According to the federally mandated calculation, 50% of the unearned portion of her aid, equaling $3,400, must be returned.

Walden is required to return the following:	Cost
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan	$3,400
After refunding the $3,400, Susie will owe Walden:	$1,190

Susie is not eligible to receive a tuition refund because she dropped her classes after the refund period. A bursar hold is placed on Susie's account at the time the funds are returned to the government, which prevents Susie from registering for any additional classes and from receiving transcripts until she repays Walden what she owes.

Example 4—Participation for More Than 60% of the Term:

Ernie is a master's degree student in the teaching program. His semester begins January 5 and ends April 26. On March 13 (68 days into the term), Ernie accepts a full-time job and drops his classes.

Ernie's cost of attendance is as follows:	Cost
Tuition	$3,300
Fees	$120
Total	$3,420

His financial aid package consists of:	Cost
Direct Unsubsidized Loan	$6,800
Total	$6,800

Based on Ernie's attendance (61% of the term), he has "earned" all of his financial aid for the term and will not have any funds returned.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Standards

Walden University's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirements to receive Title IV student financial aid comply with U.S. Department of Education regulations. These standards are intended to establish minimum, reasonable levels of advancement toward degree completion and to guard against abuse of federal financial aid programs. *Satisfactory progress requirements for receipt of federal financial aid are separate and distinct from the university's academic progress requirements for academic continuance*.

Satisfactory academic progress for all students is reviewed after each period of enrollment. Students receive written notification to their Walden University e-mail account if they are placed on *financial aid warning status*. Upon receiving this status, a student has one period of enrollment to return to the standards listed in the following section. If the student does not meet these standards, he or she may appeal for one additional period of financial aid probation. If the appeal is not granted, the student becomes ineligible for federal financial aid.

It is the student's responsibility to know the requirements for satisfactory academic progress. Failure to receive notification will not nullify a student's financial aid status with Walden University.

Students considering a decision to withdraw from a class, drop a class, or stop participating in a class should check first with their Academic Advisor. Such a decision may affect their financial aid status.

Minimum Standard for Federal Financial Aid

Program Type	*Minimum Financial Aid Course Completion Rate (Pace)*	*Minimum Cumulative Financial Aid GPA*	*Maximum Timeframe to Receive Federal Aid*
Bachelor's Degree	67%	2.0	272 financial aid attempted credits
Master's Degree	67%	3.0	20 quarters or 15 semesters
Doctoral Degree	67%	3.0	32 quarters or 24 semesters
Certificate	67%	3.0	4 quarters or 6 semesters
Education Specialist	67%	3.0	20 quarters or 15 semesters
Teacher Preparation (without master's degree option)	67%	3.0	56 financial aid attempted credits
Endorsement (without master's degree option)	67%	3.0	32 financial aid attempted credits
Preparatory Coursework	67%	2.0	12 consecutive months

The following policies will apply:

- Minimum financial aid GPA is cumulative for the current program of study.
- Minimum financial aid course completion rate is calculated by dividing financial aid completed credits by financial aid attempted credits (e.g., if 40 credits are attempted, the student must have successfully completed 27 credits).
- Financial aid attempted and completed credits are cumulative for all courses in all programs attempted at Walden.
- The following grades adversely impact the course completion rate: *I* (incomplete), *F* (fail), *NC* (no credit), *U* (unsatisfactory), *W* (withdrawal).
- Students must meet both the GPA and course completion rate requirements within the defined maximum timeframe.
- Financial aid attempted and completed credit requirements include transfer credits.
- Financial aid attempted credits include all registered courses with the exception of courses dropped before the start of the term or during the drop period.
- For course repetitions, only the most recent grade is counted in the cumulative GPA and the most recent credits are counted in the completed credits; the credits from all attempts must be counted in the course completion rate and maximum timeframe.
- The maximum timeframe will be reset for students completing a second or further degree at Walden or changing from a non-degree to a degree seeking status.
- The maximum timeframe for students who change programs without earning a Walden degree is cumulative for all programs attempted and is measured against the maximum timeframe for the current program.

- The maximum timeframe excludes quarters/semesters of non-enrollment and quarters/semesters in which all courses are dropped before the start of the term or during the drop period.
- Financial aid progress requirements include all terms of enrollment, including periods in which the student did not receive federal aid.
- Courses that adversely impact financial aid academic progress cannot be removed from the academic transcript.

Maximum Timeframe

Federal financial aid eligibility expires without probation when the student reaches the maximum timeframe or if the financial aid progress review makes it clear that the student cannot mathematically finish his or her program within the maximum timeframe.

Right to Appeal

Occasionally, a student's academic progress may be impacted by unusual circumstances that are beyond the student's control. A student may appeal for an extension of financial aid after a period of financial aid warning if the student successfully completes the warning term and if the student can document that unexpected, unusual, and temporary circumstances affected the student's ability to progress at the required rate. Examples of such mitigating circumstances are a death in the immediate family, illness, or other significant life change.

Students may appeal to the Office of Financial Aid no later than 15 calendar days following the end of the financial aid warning period.

Students who wish to appeal must complete the *Financial Aid Academic Progress Appeal* form and provide the Office of Financial Aid with supporting documentation for review. Failure to provide supporting documentation will result in an automatic denial. If the appeal is accepted, the student must meet the requirements outlined in the written approval of the appeal.

A pre-existing condition (a condition or illness that a student had before beginning any Walden University program) is not cause for appeal unless there was an unexpected change in that condition.

Students may not use the same circumstances in a subsequent appeal, although a student may submit an appeal for a future period of difficulty for different mitigating circumstances. Courses that adversely impact financial aid academic progress cannot be removed from the student's academic transcript.

Decisions by the Office of Financial Aid are final.

Treatment of Courses and Credits

Course Repetitions: Repeated courses for which a grade of "D" or better has already been earned do not count as earned or as completed credits toward the student's completion rate.

Drops: Courses dropped before the end of the add/drop period are not included in the financial aid satisfactory progress calculations.

Incompletes: Incomplete grades count as credits attempted and not completed, but do not impact GPA.

No Credit: No credit grades count as credits attempted and not completed, but do not impact GPA.

Periods With No Financial Aid: Financial aid progress requirements include all periods of enrollment, including periods in which the student did not receive financial aid.

Second Program: The maximum timeframe will be reset for students who complete one program or degree at Walden University and begin a subsequent program or degree.

Transfer Credits: All transfer credits are considered as both attempted and completed when calculating the minimum course completion rate and maximum timeframe.

Unsatisfactory Grades: Unsatisfactory grades (a grade of "U") count as credits attempted and not completed, but do not impact GPA.

Withdrawals: Courses dropped after the add/drop periods are considered to be attempted but not completed.

Policy and Definitions

Appeal: Occasionally, a student's academic progress may be impacted by unusual circumstances that are beyond the student's control. A student may appeal for an extension of financial aid if the student successfully completes the warning term and can document that unexpected, unusual, and temporary circumstances affected the student's ability to progress at the required rate. See the Right to Appeal section of this policy for details.

Maximum Timeframe: Federal financial aid eligibility expires without warning when the student reaches the maximum timeframe or if the financial aid academic progress review makes it clear that the student cannot mathematically finish the current program within the maximum timeframe.

- The maximum timeframe will be reset for students completing a second or additional degree at Walden.
- The maximum timeframe for students who change programs without earning a Walden degree is cumulative for all programs attempted and is measured against the maximum timeframe for the current program.
- The maximum timeframe excludes quarters/semesters of non-enrollment and quarters/semesters in which all courses are dropped before the start of the term or during the drop period.
- Financial aid eligibility for an academic program ceases as soon as all academic requirements for graduation have been met regardless of maximum timeframe standing.

Minimum Course Completion Rate (Pace): A percentage calculated by dividing cumulative successfully completed credits by total credits attempted. For example, a student who has

successfully completed 27 credits at Walden out of a total of 40 attempted credits has a course completion rate of 67%. This rate includes credits transferred in to Walden.

Minimum GPA—Cumulative: The GPA for all coursework pertaining to the current program of study.

Minimum GPA—Period of Enrollment: The GPA for all courses attempted during the most recent period of enrollment.

Period of Enrollment: One semester or one quarter.

Status—Financial Aid Warning: This status is assigned to a student who fails to make satisfactory academic progress during his or her most recent period of enrollment. The student has one period of enrollment to be successful and maintain eligibility for financial aid.

Status—Financial Aid Probation: This status is assigned to a student who fails to make satisfactory academic progress during his or her period of enrollment, fails to successfully return to satisfactory progress during one term of financial aid warning, completes a successful appeal for mitigating circumstances, and has eligibility for financial aid reinstated on a probationary basis. Financial aid probation is assigned for one period of enrollment. It may be extended if accompanied by an academic plan.

Academic Plan: This status is assigned in order to assist students in returning to compliance by a specified date. The option for extended probation with an academic plan is only available if it is not reasonable to expect the student to achieve successful academic progress during the typical one-term extension of probation. An academic plan may be a course-by-course plan for degree completion, a specification for number of credits and/or grade requirements for particular periods of enrollment, and/or requirements for the student to get academic support or to use other academic resources. A student must comply with all aspects of an academic plan in order to retain eligibility for financial aid.

Status—Financial Aid Ineligibility: This status is assigned to a student who failed to be successful during the period of financial aid warning or probation. Students who do not complete a successful appeal, who are not successful during a single-term financial aid probation, or who do not comply with an academic plan for an extended period of financial aid probation will lose all federal financial aid eligibility. A student with financial aid ineligibility status is not eligible for federal financial aid until the student meets all the requirements again. Simply sitting out a term, paying cash, or changing academic programs will not return a student to satisfactory academic progress.

Loss of Federal Financial Aid Eligibility

Students who become ineligible to receive federal financial aid but remain in compliance with the academic progress standards for continuance in their program are not withdrawn from the program, but they must make alternative payment arrangements with the bursar by the appropriate tuition due date. Students may still be eligible for private educational loans if federal aid eligibility is lost.