**Three Steps to Financial Aid Eligibility**

1. We estimate the cost of your education.
   Examples of direct costs include:
   • Tuition
   • Fees
   • Other school supplies

   Examples of indirect costs include:
   • Food
   • Transportation to and from school
   • Personal expenses and supplies

   We consider both direct and indirect costs when helping you budget adequate financial support during your enrollment at the school. Standard budget figures (available for review in Student Financial Services) are used to estimate indirect costs, based on where you will live when you attend the school. Please refer to the Consumer Information section of the school’s website for the current cost of attendance worksheet [https://www.southuniversity.edu/sci-page](https://www.southuniversity.edu/sci-page).

2. We calculate all of your available resources for educational costs.
   These resources include:
   • Scholarships
   • Federal grants and loans for which you are eligible
   • State grants and loans for which you are eligible
   • Private loans
   • Veterans Administration (VA) benefits
   • Work-Study programs
   • Tuition Assistance
   • Other

3. We subtract all of the available resources from the direct cost of your education. The difference is the amount that can be covered through a payment plan.

**Financial Aid is Usually Based on Need**

Financial aid programs are designed to supplement the resources of the family. Our Financial Aid Department uses a required formula specified by the U.S. Department of Education. Using that formula, we can determine how much of the estimated cost of education should be financed by the student or family, and how much should be paid for using aid programs.

Most financial aid is based on individual economic circumstances. We determine these by analyzing the financial information you provide on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form available at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).

The FAFSA is a standard form used to determine your eligibility for many financial aid programs, including:
• Federal grant programs
• Federal loan programs
• The Federal Work-Study program (FWS)
• Some state student assistance programs

We compute the difference between the total cost of your education and the amount that you and your family are expected to contribute based on a federally defined calculation, referred to as your EFC (Expected Family Contribution).

Once this is complete, we can determine the amount of financial aid for which you’re eligible.

Verification - Verification is the process by which the school is required to verify the information that students and parents provide on their FAFSA application in order to receive federal financial aid. The government typically chooses students, either at random or due to something that they filed in their application. The school can also choose to verify a student’s record at their discretion. Not all students are chosen for verification. When chosen, students will be required to supply specific signed documentation that will be used to verify that the information supplied on the FAFSA application is accurate. If chosen, this information must be supplied and verified before federal aid can be disbursed to the students’ account.

**When to Apply for Financial Aid**

As soon as you enroll at the school, you should apply for financial aid. To be considered for financial aid, you only have to apply for it.

If you have questions while you are completing the forms, you can call the school’s Financial Aid Department.

If all your aid applications and forms have been properly submitted, the school can credit any anticipated aid to your student account. This allows you to defer costs covered by financial aid until the aid is received — and start school on time. You must reestablish your financial aid eligibility (and reapply) each year. Application deadlines are announced yearly — usually in January — and the new FAFSA is available in October of the previous year. You can apply for federal aid through FAFSA on the Web. A link is available on the school’s Web site or you can go directly to [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).

**How Financial Aid is Paid**

Financial aid payments are usually made in equal installments for each term in each academic year, according to your enrollment status (full time, half time, etc.)

When you complete the Federal Direct and Federal Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (FPLUS) Loan applications and authorize transfer of funds electronically, your student account is automatically credited with your loan proceeds.

Some loan programs carry origination and insurance fees.

**How to Apply for Financial Aid**

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is a standard document used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid. Information you provide on the FAFSA form is used to determine your eligibility for many financial aid programs including:
• Federal grant programs
• Federal loan programs
• Federal Work-Study programs
• Some state student assistance programs

To find out about your state financial aid programs, visit the Financial Aid Department or go to [https://www2.ed.gov/about/contacts/state/index.html](https://www2.ed.gov/about/contacts/state/index.html) on the Web.

Please see the “Types of Financial Aid” section of this guide for more information about individual aid programs.

In general, to receive aid from federal student aid programs, you must meet specific program eligibility requirements as well as the following:
• Demonstrate financial need, except for some loan programs.
• Be in good standing on all prior educational loans and grants.
• Meet South University admissions criteria, which include possessing a high school diploma or a General Educational Development (GED) certificate.
• Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a regular student working...
You should also know that each school is bound by the provisions of your parents’ federal income tax returns.

You do not need to contribute information to the form. We’ll be glad to help.

If you take it step by step and use the instructions that come with the form. If you still can’t determine the answer you need, call the Financial Aid Department at the school. We’ll be glad to help.

Confidentiality
When you apply for financial aid, you are required to give the school detailed financial information. This may include a copy of your and your parents’ federal income tax returns.

While this information is necessary to verify application statements, we appreciate the sensitive nature of individual tax returns. We hold all financial information you entrust to us in strictest confidence.

You should also know that each school is bound by the provisions of the Family Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. This law regulates the release of any personal information.

Completing the FAFSA Form

Find a quiet place and time to complete the form without interruption.

You’ll need your 2019 1040 tax return and your parents’ as well, but only if you’re considered to be a dependent student for purposes of federal financial aid. If eligible and if you have already filed your taxes, you are encouraged to take advantage of the IRS Data Retrieval System when filing your FAFSA online.

Get organized. Gather your personal and family financial records. Here’s a checklist of records you may need:

• Last year’s federal tax returns
• Checkbook stubs
• Savings account and investment statements
• Information relating to income including wages, dividends, Social Security benefits, welfare and other government payments, alimony or child support, Veterans Administration benefits, and disability benefits, etc.

Involve other family members who must provide information. If you’re considered a dependent for federal financial aid purposes, your parent(s) may need to complete the form. You do not need to include parental financial information if you are over 24 years old, a veteran, a ward of the court, an orphan, married, are working on a masters or doctoral degree, in legal guardianship, a homeless youth as defined on the FAFSA or supporting legal dependents other than a spouse.

Follow the instructions that come with the form.

Be specific; a range of figures such as $200 – $300 will not be accepted. You should feel free to call the school if you are unsure how to answer specific questions on the form.

Remember to sign the form. A parent must also sign if he or she contributed information to the form.

If applying online, you (and your parent) can create and use an FSA ID to “e-sign” the form.

Tips for Filling Out Your FAFSA Form

Complete the FAFSA on the Web Worksheet before starting the online application.

• Follow the online instructions carefully. The website is designed to assist you through the process.
• You should feel free to call the school if you are unsure how to answer specific questions on the form.
• Remember to sign the form electronically (e-sign). A parent must also e-sign if he or she contributed information to the form.
• When applying online, you (and maybe your parent) will need to create and use an FSA ID to e-sign the form.

We appreciate the sensitive nature of your financial records. All financial information you entrust to us is held in the strictest confidence.

Non-Discrimination Policy
South University does not discriminate on the basis of age, creed, ancestry, religion, sex, disability, sexual orientation, race, color, national or ethnic origin, genetic marker or any other characteristic protected by state, local or federal law in any of its programs or services.

This includes scholarship and loan programs, as well as administrative, educational and admissions policies. It also includes counseling, financial assistance, and student employment services.

Questions about this policy, which is governed by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and subsequent regulations, should be directed to the school or to the Director of the Office for Civil Rights of the Department of Education in Washington, D.C.

Maintaining Financial Aid Eligibility

When you enroll at the school and accept financial aid, you agree to take on specific responsibilities and retain certain rights. Here are some pointers to help maintain your eligibility for financial aid:

1. Take the full load of classes that are scheduled for you. Aid may be reduced or canceled if your class schedule is reduced.
2. Keep copies of tax returns and other records. Federal regulations require random verification of financial aid applications, so you and/or your parents may be asked to provide copies of your tax returns or demonstrate that you were not required to file.
3. Maintain satisfactory academic progress toward your educational goal as defined in the school catalog.
4. Notify the Financial Aid Department if you receive any financial assistance that was not previously reported. This includes any outside scholarships and private loans. Be aware that when you apply for financial aid, the assistance offered is subject to final funding authorization established by the U.S. Congress and state legislatures.
5. Reapply on time and accurately, and complete any applications and forms that are requested.
6. Stay up to date! Regulatory changes may bring about new rules and eligibility for financial aid, which could change your awards. There are substantial changes to federal awards each year that affect yearly aid availability and eligibility, along with maximum and aggregate eligibility.
Important: Please note that any or all federal financial aid programs may be modified or eliminated at any time at the discretion of the U.S. Congress. Please contact your Financial Aid Department for more information.

Tuition Refunds
If you withdraw from school for any reason, you may be entitled to a partial refund of tuition and fees. The refund policy, outlined in the school catalog, determines whether any refund is due.

If you receive financial aid and you withdraw from school with the intention of returning, you must notify the Financial Aid Department in order to request financial assistance for future terms.

For Title IV (federal financial aid) recipients who withdraw from attendance, the college is mandated by federal regulation to determine the amount of Title IV funds the student has earned at the time the student ceases attendance.

The amount earned is based on the amount of calendar days in the term completed by the student, divided by the number of calendar days in the same term, excluding any scheduled breaks of at least five (5) consecutive days. The amount earned is based on the amount of time the student has spent in attendance and is not related to the student’s institutional charges. The amount of Title IV funds earned is based upon a proportional calculation through sixty (60) percent of the term attended. The college will use the following steps in order to determine the amount of Title IV a student who withdraws has earned:

1. Determine the date of withdrawal and determine the percentage of payment period (term) attended by the student.
2. Determine the amount of Title IV aid earned by the student by multiplying the total Title IV aid for which the student was eligible by the percentage of time enrolled.
3. Compare the amount earned to the amount disbursed. If the amount earned is greater than the amount disbursed, then a post withdrawal disbursement can be made if the student is eligible for a “late disbursement.”

If the amount disbursed exceeds the amount earned, the excess Title IV aid must be returned.

4. Allocate the responsibility for returning unearned aid between the college and the student according to the portion of disbursed aid that could have been used to cover institutional charges and the portion that could have been disbursed directly to the student once institutional charges were covered.
5. Distribute the unearned Title IV aid back to the Title IV programs. Examples of Return to Title IV and refund calculations may be obtained through the office of financial aid.

The Federal Direct and Federal PLUS Loan Forms

Federal Direct Form
To apply for a Federal Direct Loan, you must use the Master Promissory Note (MPN) for Federal Direct Loans (Subsidized/Unsubsidized). You can complete the MPN online at https://studentaid.gov/mpn/. Our Financial Aid Department will determine the proper loan amount you are eligible for after reviewing your completed FAFSA form. After you complete the MPN, notify the Financial Aid Department at the school. If you already have a valid MPN on file with Direct Loans notify us and we will verify that it can be used at South University.

Entrance Counseling for Student Loan Borrowers
Before receiving a student loan, first-time borrowers must complete an entrance counseling session. This quick and easy interactive counseling session provides useful tips and tools to help you develop a budget for managing your educational expenses and helps you to understand your loan responsibilities. This entrance counseling session can be found on the Direct Loan Servicing Web Site at https://studentaid.gov/entrance-counseling/

The Federal Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students

Students (FPLUS) Application Form
An eligible parent qualifies for FPLUS Loans while a dependent son or daughter attends school. To apply for an FPLUS Loan, your parent (only one need apply) must complete the Promissory Note for Federal Plus Loans at https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans/plus.

The Financial Aid Department will recommend an amount based on eligibility and the amount needed to pay for school.

Carefully read the instructions and general information before you complete the form.

Read the Promissory Note before you e-sign and date it. It is a legal document requiring you to pay back the money you borrow.

Types of Financial Aid

Federal Pell Grant
Description:
Federal Pell Grants are forms of assistance to students who meet financial standards set by the federal government. They are available to students who demonstrate financial need, based on a federal formula, and who have not already received a bachelor’s degree. The amount available varies from year to year based on Congressional appropriations. Grants for full-time, eligible students may be available up to $6,495 per academic year. Part-time students who are eligible for grants receive smaller amounts. Starting July 1, 2012 Pell eligibility is restricted to 6 years of lifetime eligibility. Please contact the Financial Aid Department for current Pell Grant ranges and your eligibility for that grant. Federal Grants do not have to be repaid by eligible students who remain in school. Students might have to pay back all or part of a Federal Grant if he/she withdraws from school before finishing an enrollment period (for example, a quarter).

How to apply:
Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). South University will receive an Institutional Student Information Report (ISIR) from the Federal Financial Aid Processor when you indicate the school as a choice on your FAFSA.

The ISIR establishes your eligibility for the Federal Pell Grant and authorizes the school to credit your tuition account with Federal Pell Grant payments. Your actual Pell Grant amount will be given to you on your award letter.

How payments are made:
If we have a valid ISIR for you, we can receive your Pell Grant funds directly from the federal government. Your account is then credited with your Pell Grant funds at the beginning of each term of eligibility. The credit is automatic as long as your financial...
Awards are given to students with the lowest EFC according to their from the ISIR to determine whether you are eligible for an FSEOG. FAFSA application. The school will use the information from the Federal Financial Aid Processor when you indicate the school will receive an Institutional Student Information Report (ISIR). Awards are given to students with the lowest EFC according to their FAFSA application.

How to apply:
Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The school will receive an Institutional Student Information Report (ISIR) from the Federal Financial Aid Processor when you indicate the school as a choice on your FAFSA. The school will use the information from the ISIR to determine whether you are eligible for an FSEOG. How payments are made:
If we have a valid ISIR for you, we can receive your FSEOG funds directly from the federal government. Your account is then credited with your grant funds each term. The credit is automatic as long as your financial paperwork is complete each year, you remain eligible for aid, and you officially register for classes each term.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
Description:
FSEOG is available to students who demonstrate exceptional financial need as determined by the results of the FAFSA and who have not already received a bachelor’s degree. The amount available varies, and program funds are limited. Eligible students generally receive from $200 to $1,500 for each academic year (three quarters). Federal Grants do not have to be repaid by eligible students who remain in school. Students might have to pay back all or part of a Federal Grant if he/she withdraws from school before finishing an enrollment period (for example, a quarter).

How payments are made:
If we have a valid ISIR for you, we can receive your FSEOG funds directly from the federal government. Your account is then credited with your grant funds each term. The credit is automatic as long as your financial paperwork is complete each year, you remain eligible for aid, and you officially register for classes each term.

Federal Direct Student Loan
Description:
The interest rates for loans disbursed on or after July 1 of each year, will be calculated based on the Treasury bill rates as of June 1 (plus an additional add on rate). Since interest rates are calculated every year, it is very likely you will have different interest rates on subsequent loans as well as your prior federal loans.

Once calculated, the interest rate for that loan will not change. Contact the Financial Aid Department for the most current interest rates. The program is funded through the Federal Government. Eligibility is based on financial need as determined through the results of the FAFSA. If you are eligible, you may borrow once per academic year as long as all of the required paperwork has been completed.

The federal government pays the interest on a Subsidized Federal Direct Loan while you attend school at least half time, and during periods of deferment, including during the six month grace period. As a student, you are responsible for interest on an Unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan. As of July 1, 2013, once a student has received subsidized loans for 150% of the published time of their academic program the student may not receive any additional subsidized loans. All remaining loan eligibility will be for unsubsidized loans.

First-time students will have their first loan disbursement delayed 30 days.

Amount:
Dependent students may borrow combinations of Subsidized and Unsubsidized Federal Direct Loans up to a maximum of $5,500 during the first grade level, $6,500 during the second grade level, and $7,500 for the third and fourth grade levels. As of July 1, 2012 graduate students are no longer eligible for subsidized Direct loans. Independent students and dependent students whose parents cannot borrow under the Federal PLUS Loan program (see next section) may borrow the maximum annual amounts stated above, plus an annual maximum of $4,000 in Unsubsidized Federal Direct Loans for the first and second grade levels, and $5,000 in Unsubsidized Federal Direct Loans for the third and fourth grade levels. An origination fee is deducted from the amount borrowed for both Subsidized and Unsubsidized Direct Loans. Maximum loan amounts may be reduced for loan periods less than an academic year and if the student has previous loans. Graduate students may borrow up to $20,500 for each year of study.

Aggregate Limits:
There is a lifetime maximum amount of Federal Direct Loan funds that students may borrow. These maximums would include funds borrowed at all colleges for all programs. If you have previously attended another institution and borrowed Federal funds, you should be aware of your current total amount borrowed and the federal maximums below. For more detailed information, please refer to the Federal information located at https://studentaid.gov/h/understand-aid.

Lifetime Loan Limits:
Dependent students; $31,000 (up to $23,000 may be subsidized)
Independent students and dependent students whose parents cannot borrow PLUS; $57,500 (up to $23,000 may be subsidized)
Graduate program students; $138,500 (up to $65,500 may be subsidized)

*Graduate students are no longer eligible for subsidized loans as of July 1, 2012

Repayment for subsidized loans:
Repayment begins six months after you leave school or drop below half-time status. While you are in school in at least half-time status and during your 6 month grace period the interest is “subsidized” by the federal government.

Repayment for unsubsidized loans:
Your first payment of principal is due six months after you leave school or drop below half-time status. Interest can be paid quarterly while you are attending school or can be accrued during the in-school and six-month grace periods. If it accrues, it is added to the principal when you begin to repay the loan.

See your Student Financial Aid Officer to obtain a sample loan repayment schedule.

How payments are made:
Federal Direct Loans are sent directly to the school from the Federal Government electronically. This process is called Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The EFT loan funds are usually automatically credited to your tuition account at the beginning of each term. Contact the Financial Aid Department for details. If your loan funds have not been received when you start class, we will defer payment of the school charges until the funds are received, as long as all of the paperwork has been completed. First time students will have their first loan disbursement delayed 30 days.
### Federal Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (FPLUS)

**Description:**
The interest rates for loans disbursed on or after July 1 of each year, will be calculated based on the Treasury bill rates as of June 1 (plus an additional add on rate). Since interest rates are calculated every year, it is very likely you will have different interest rates on subsequent loans as well as your prior federal loans.

Once calculated, the interest rate for that loan will not change. Contact the Financial Aid Department for the most current interest rates.

The Federal Government will require a credit evaluation to determine the parent’s eligibility for this loan. A parent may borrow up to the difference between the student’s educational costs and other financial aid the student receives for each academic year. An origination fee will be deducted from the amount borrowed.

**Repayment:**
Repayment begins within 60 days after the loan is fully disbursed. See your Student Financial Aid Officer to obtain a sample repayment plan.

**How payments are made:**
The Federal Government will electronically transmit the loan funds to the school by a process called Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The loan proceeds will automatically be transferred to the student’s account; this usually occurs prior to the beginning of each term. See your Student Financial Aid Officer for more details.

### Federal Work-Study

**Description:**
Through the Federal Work-Study program, you have the opportunity to meet part of your expenses by working part time on or off campus including possibly working in a community service position, depending on availability. Workers earn at least minimum wage. A limited number of jobs are available, with priority given to students with the greatest need, as determined by the results of the FAFSA.

Our Financial Aid Department has more details. The maximum a student can earn through this program is the amount of unmet need (the difference between expenses and all resources). Wages from this program will be paid directly to you as you earn them. As with any job, several weeks may pass before you receive your first paycheck, so you will need to cover your own expenses initially.

### State Student Assistance Programs

**Description:**
Some states offer educational grants and scholarship programs funded by individual state legislatures to help students obtain higher education. The eligibility criteria, amounts, and loan repayment obligations vary according to state regulations. The Financial Aid Department can help you apply for the program in your state.
Veterans Education Act
The Veterans Education Act provides varying levels of assistance to eligible veterans, disabled veterans, and their dependents. If you are a veteran or the dependent of a veteran, contact your local Veterans Administration for more information.

Vocational Rehabilitation Programs
Every state has programs to help people with physical disabilities. Some states offer retraining programs for people who have been out of the job market for a length of time. Eligibility criteria and amounts vary according to state regulations. For more information, contact your local vocational rehabilitation office, unemployment office, or your state department of human resources.

The American Opportunity and Lifetime Learning Tax credits are also available as part of offered vocational rehabilitation programs. A student or the parents of a dependent student can claim a credit of up to $2,500 per year. This credit is subject to certain tax laws.

Awards, Grants, and Scholarships
South University offers various scholarship opportunities, awards, and grants every year to new and continuing students. Offers may be based on program of study, attendance, financial need, academic achievement, and community service credentials. Contact the Financial Aid Department to find out how to apply for these and other available regional and local scholarships, awards, and grants.

Students are encouraged to visit our Student Consumer information page which includes helpful information regarding our school.

https://www.southuniversity.edu/sci-page

Below are some of the topics that are covered.

1. Institutional: Information regarding costs, refund policies, programs of study, transfer of credits, accrediting, approvals, licensing, special facilities and services for students with disabilities, and other information is available through the Admissions Office, in the school catalog, and Enrollment Agreement.

2. Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA): This act explains your rights and procedures regarding inspection and review of your education records, correction of inaccurate or misleading information, consent to disclose information, institutional criteria for identifying school officials, what constitutes a legitimate educational interest, and filing complaints with the Department of Education. Information is available through the Admissions Office, in the school catalog, and in the Student Handbook; it is also available on request to your parent, if he and/or she meet the definition of a parent under FERPA.

3. Financial assistance information: A description of financial assistance programs available to students is available in the Admissions and Student Financial Services Offices. The information includes eligibility requirements, application procedures, forms and deadlines, criteria for receiving and continuing to receive financial assistance, students’ rights and responsibilities, criteria for satisfactory academic progress, terms of loans, terms of employment, the frequency and the method by which aid is disbursed, entrance and exit counseling, and terms of any loan repayment deferments for service.

4. Institutional security policies and crime statistics (also called “Crime Report”): This information is available through the Admissions Office. It includes a breakdown of crimes occurring on campus reported to local police agencies or to campus security. It also includes school policies and programs for reporting crimes, law enforcement and security on campus, drug and alcohol offenses, prevention of sex crimes, and other information related to campus crime and security.

5. Information on completion rates: Information for first-time students is available through the Admissions Office. These rates are calculated according to guidelines in the “Student Right to Know” Act.

6. Drug and alcohol abuse prevention: Information is available in the Student Handbook and through the Student Services Office.

7. A student who is convicted for any offense, during a period of enrollment for which the student was receiving Federal Title IV, HEA program funds, under any Federal or State law involving the possession or sale of illegal drugs, will result in the loss of eligibility for any Federal Title IV, HEA grant, loan, or work-study assistance.

8. Data about all Federal Loans and the Pell grant are submitted to the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS), and will be accessible by student loan guaranty agencies, student loan lenders, and post-secondary institutions determined to be authorized users of the data system.

It is the responsibility of each student to carefully review and understand all documentation, including but not limited to, their Enrollment Agreement, Application, Award Letter, Master Promissory Note, school catalog, Guide to Federal Financial Aid, and all loan disclosures, regarding their financial aid rights and responsibilities. Students are also required to know their current aggregate amounts borrowed under all loan programs and amounts received under the Pell Grant program. Changing programs, institutions, attendance level along with failing or dropping courses will directly impact SAP (Satisfactory Academic Progress – as defined in the school catalog) and financial aid eligibility and aggregate amounts. All students are encouraged to ask a Student Financial Services professional at the school for any guidance they might need or to access all federal resources previously listed in this guide.

NOTES
This is a comprehensive guide to help you look into ways to financially meet your educational goals. While this is only a guide, it provides valuable information that will help you better understand the financial aid process and the steps that must be taken to receive aid. A South University Financial Aid Officer is available to assist you in this process as you make arrangements to pay for your education.

Please note: This brochure may be updated at any time; the most current version is maintained on the school’s website, and is also available upon request.