



Financial Matters

OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Important Dates

2007

November 17
E-Bill was issued by
Bursar

December 12
Spring bill is due

2008

January 4
Financial aid disburses
to Oxford student
accounts

January 14
Spring term classes
begin

March 15
Priority deadline for
2008-2009 FAFSA
Returning Student
Scholarship Application
due

April 15
Summer financial aid
review begins

Redhawk Tip:

Pay attention to deadlines and due dates! You can't compete for funds if you're not in the game.

From the Director



A continual focus of the Office of Student Financial Assistance is to improve our customer service. Along with the "traditional" customer service functions like courtesy, timely service, and accurate answers to your questions, we feel that better communication with you is critical. This newsletter is one attempt at improving that conduit of information.

Each semester we will publish a new edition of the Financial Matters e-newsletter, bringing you information and articles about the sometimes difficult and complex financial aid process. Our intended audience is as encompassing as we can make it, Miami students and parents. Due to the differences in your situations, not every piece of information will apply to everyone, but hopefully everyone can find something useful in every edition.

Have any comments? Think we can improve? Have a suggestion for a future article or feature? If so – please let us know by dropping us a line at financialaid@muohio.edu. We want to hear from you!

Chuck Knepfle
Assistant Provost and Director of Student Financial Assistance

Scholarship Opportunities

The Returning Student Scholarship Application is available! Don't miss out on the opportunity to apply for a 2008-09 Returning Student Scholarship. Applications are now available at the Office of Student Financial Assistance or online at www.muohio.edu/financialaid. There is no minimum grade point average required to apply, however, due to the limited number of scholarship awards, most of the scholarships are awarded to students with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.8. Typically, the average award per student is \$1,000.

To apply, students must be enrolled in an undergraduate degree program; have full-time enrollment at any Miami University campus during 2007-08; and plan to be enrolled full-time at either the Oxford or Luxembourg campuses during the 2008-09 school year.

Students who have already earned a Bachelor's degree or are receiving a full scholarship (tuition, fees, on-campus room and board) from Miami are not eligible.

To also be considered for scholarships with a need-based component, students must submit a 2008-2009 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 15, 2008. Complete a new or renewal FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Scholarship applications must be received by March 15, 2008. Students will receive notification as to whether or not they were awarded a scholarship for the 2008-09 academic year prior to July 1, 2008. Good Luck!

See page 2 for information about the Myrtis H. Powell Scholarship

Study Abroad Airfare Grant

The Office of Student Financial Assistance is offering a Study Abroad Airfare Grant to help undergraduate students studying abroad, in fall or spring, offset the cost of their plane ticket. Eligible students may receive a grant for up to \$600. If your ticket is more expensive, we are offering an interest-free University Loan which is available, upon request, for the difference.

To qualify for the grant, you must have submitted a FAFSA demonstrating financial need. To receive the grant, you must provide a signed ticket receipt or price quote and complete a Study Abroad Declaration as well as a Consortium/Contractual

Agreement. If you are participating in a Miami program, you are not required to complete a Consortium/Contractual agreement. You can download the Study Abroad Declaration and Consortium/Contractual Agreement from the "Study Abroad" section of our website at www.muohio.edu/financialaid. To find out if you qualify, call or visit our office and speak with a counselor.

Bon Voyage!



"A durable power-of-attorney allows the person you appoint to act on your behalf if you are not physically or mentally able to make decisions."

Power of Attorney

If you plan to study abroad, you should consider appointing someone to handle your affairs in your absence. This can be done by giving a person you trust a temporary power-of-attorney. A power-of-attorney is a document that allows you to give someone the legal authority to act on your behalf. For instance, while you are out of the country, your designee would be able to sign a refund check.

A durable power-of-attorney for healthcare allows your designee to act on your behalf if you are not physically or mentally able to make decisions. This would be important if you were to suffer a medical emergency while in a foreign country.

Power-of-attorney forms can be obtained at business supply stores, downloaded from the

Internet, or through an attorney. Please be aware that this is a legal document and it needs to be notarized and validated by an attorney.



The Myrtis H. Powell Scholarship

will be awarded to a full-time Miami University student who has exhibited leadership in creating an inclusive campus environment and has evidence of involvement in community activities. The scholarship is open to all undergraduate and graduate students on the Oxford, Hamilton, and Middletown campuses. Applications are available online at www.muohio.edu/womenscenter. Click on "Programs/Events" and choose "Signature Events." Scroll down and download the Myrtis H. Powell Scholarship application. The application is also available in the Office of Student Financial Assistance on the Oxford, Hamilton, and Middletown campuses. The deadline to submit your application for this \$1,000 scholarship is January 31, 2008.

FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of your education records, both financial and academic. For your protection, FERPA limits release of student record information without your explicit written consent. You must complete the FERPA release and submit to our of-

fice if you want to authorize us to give out information to anyone other than yourself (this includes your parents). If your parents call our office and the FERPA release is not on file, we will not be allowed to give them specific information regarding your account.

A FERPA release is available at the Office of Student Financial Assistance or may be downloaded at www.muohio.edu/financialaid.

You must present your Miami Student ID card for service

Bursar eBill

With the need to provide immediate electronic access to account information, Miami University embarked on a new process for providing students and their families with their account detail called eBill. The eBill ensures that every student will receive a copy of their Bursar bill in a timely manner via their Miami University e-mail address.

Students are also encouraged to add their parents or other payers as "Authorized Viewers." Students can

Your eBill must be cleared by December 12 to avoid late fees.

do this by logging onto their myMiami account. First select "Bursar eBill," then "View my eBill," and/or Add Authorized Viewer." Click "Add New" under Parent PIN; then assign a Login Name and Password for your "Authorized Viewer." Enter the "Authorized Viewer's" e-mail address and notification will be sent to that address when

a new eBill is available for viewing.

It is important to realize that the Miami University eBill is a snapshot of the student's account as of the date on the invoice. This eBill will **NOT** update. Up-to-date Bursar account information is available on BannerWeb. Select "Student Services and Financial aid," "Student Records," and then "Account Summary by Term." If you have questions about the eBill, please contact Student Accounts at 513-529-8744.



December Grads

ATTENTION DECEMBER 2007 GRADS WITH FEDERAL DIRECT LOANS AND FEDERAL PERKINS LOANS!

First of all Congratulations on your Graduation! What an achievement!

The U.S. Department of Education requires that Miami University offer Direct Loan Exit Counseling to our students. Exit Counseling informs you of your rights and responsibilities regarding the repayment process. You were notified in mid-November of Exit Counseling dates. Although these dates have passed, you still have two options for completing Direct Loan Exit Counseling requirements:

1. Complete the contents of the Exit Counseling Booklet. (A packet will be mailed to you if you did not attend one of the Exit Counseling sessions.)

2. Access www.muohio.edu/financialaid; click on Loans; select the ENTRANCE/EXIT Button; select Exit Counseling and follow the directions.

If you were awarded a Federal Perkins Loan, you will need to complete a separate Exit Interview. To complete the Exit Interview online, visit www.ecsi.net and click "E-Services." Your diploma and transcripts will be held if you do not complete the Perkins Loan Exit Interview. If you have questions about completing the Perkins Loan Exit Interview, contact Cindy Back in the Bursar's Office at 513-529-8744.

Once again, Congratulations!

Students Speak Up

CONTRIBUTED BY OUR TALENTED STUDENT EMPLOYEES

As a student employee in financial aid, my experience with parents and students has helped me to identify some advice which might benefit you. I encourage all students and parents to familiarize themselves with priority deadlines (i.e., FAFSA), and payment dates (i.e., semester eBills) in order to avoid unnecessary late fees and the hassle that comes with missing deadlines.

I would also prompt students who are not knowledgeable about how their education is being financed to become more involved with the entire financial aid process in order to gain a better understanding of how much an education costs, and more broadly, acquire a grounded orientation to money and spending. This will not only help students establish

responsible saving and spending habits, it will also prepare them for handling finances once they have left the comforts of college life. Most importantly, though, I invite everyone to enjoy their educational experience to the fullest!





MIAMI UNIVERSITY

OXFORD OHIO

OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

301 South Campus Avenue

Room 121

Oxford, OH 45056

Phone: 513-529-8734

Fax: 513-529-8713

E-mail: financialaid@muohio.edu

Office Hours are 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
(phones close at 4:30 p.m.)

Need \$ for college?

You need to file a FAFSA each year to be reviewed for need-based aid. If you've never filed before, or if you'll file a renewal application, the priority deadline for the 2008-2009 FAFSA is March 15th! File online starting January 1, 2008 at 12:01a.m.

You must have a valid FAFSA to be reviewed for:

- Study Abroad Airfare Grant
- Merit scholarships with a need-based requirement
- Summer financial aid
- Federal, state, and Miami grants
- Federal Direct Student and PLUS loans

Forgot your PIN or need to register for one? You can register for a PIN or request a duplicate PIN online.



We're on the Web!

www.muohio.edu/financialaid

Summer's Top 7

7 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SUMMER FINANCIAL AID

1. There is no separate application for summer financial aid.
2. Beginning mid-April, your account will be reviewed for financial aid eligibility if you have completed a **2007-2008** Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), have registered for summer classes, and have completed all financial aid requirements. (Please allow 1-2 weeks for processing.)
3. If you advance in grade level after the spring semester (reaching 30 or 64 completed credit hours), you may be eligible for additional loan money. If you advance, you will be offered the additional loan amount once spring grades are posted.
4. If you have exhausted your loan eligibility during the fall and spring semesters and you are a dependent student, your parent has the option to apply for a PLUS loan for the summer. A separate application is required and can be downloaded at www.muohio.edu/financialaid under the "Forms" section.
5. Any student can apply for a Private Loan for summer. (This requires a credit check, so be sure to use a cosigner; you may also receive a better interest rate.)
6. Any federal loans that are offered can be accepted via BannerWeb, by signing your award notice and returning it to our office, or by sending an e-mail, with your Banner ID number, from your muohio e-mail account to financialaid@muohio.edu.
7. Any time you change your enrollment, by dropping or adding credit hours, you should notify our office immediately – these changes may affect your aid eligibility.

