



2020-2021 FINANCIAL AID FACTS

Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships: 217-581-6405

Fax: 217-581-6422

Financial Aid Website: www.eiu.edu/finaid/

Cost to Attend Eastern Illinois University

The 2020-2021 actual costs can be viewed on our website.

The Guaranteed Tuition Plan provides for a constant tuition rate for four continuous academic years beginning with an undergraduate student's first term. Continuing students and graduate students are not covered under the Guaranteed Tuition Plan. For questions about the Guaranteed Tuition Plan, please contact the Student Accounts Office at (217) 581-3715.

Types of Awards

Grants, work-study and loans are awarded in that order. A grant is a type of gift aid that does not require repayment. Each grant has different requirements for eligibility. Eligibility for need-based grants is determined using federal and/or state formulas and the information the student provided on the FAFSA. Completion of the FAFSA is the only application required to be considered for the following specific grant programs: Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), Federal Work Study (FSW), Access to Education (A2E), and the Monetary Award Program (MAP) Grant.

Students who enroll in sponsored credit classes through the School of Continuing Education need to understand that most scholarships and waivers (including the MAP award) will not pay for sponsored credit classes. Waivers cannot be used for cost-recovery Continuing Education classes.

Student loans can be a useful tool in funding your education, but use them wisely. Borrow only what you need. A student must be enrolled at least 6 hours (half-time) to be eligible for Federal Loans. First-time borrowers at EIU will also need to complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN) and Entrance Counseling.

Need

Financial aid is simply defined as the difference between a student's cost of attendance (COA) and the family's ability to pay these costs, the expected family contribution (EFC). The EFC reflects the **financial resources** reported on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Your EFC is **not** a dollar amount you or your family is expected to pay towards your bill. Your Student Aid Report (SAR) displays your EFC. If the EFC is less than the cost of attendance, the student is considered to have financial need. If the EFC is greater than the cost attendance, non-need based aid may be offered. We attempt to meet financial need until all aid is exhausted. The COA includes average tuition and fees, estimated living expenses, transportation, personal items, books and supplies. The COA can be viewed on our website. **All students who are eligible for a Federal Direct Student Loan will be offered a loan, whether or not requested on the FAFSA. You have the option of rejecting the loan on PAWS.**

Enrollment

All awards for undergraduate students will be calculated on an average of 15 on-campus hours using the Guaranteed Tuition Rate. All awards for graduate students will be calculated on an average of 9 on-campus hours. Fees are not affected by the Guaranteed Tuition Plan. There is a text book rental fee that covers rental of basic textbooks. Your awards are based on an average number of hours as noted above. On PAWS under the Financial Aid section, you can view your awards and the number of hours we assume you will be enrolled each semester.

Change in Hours – Change in Awards

- As an undergraduate student, you must be enrolled full-time (12 credit hours per semester) to receive most types of financial aid. If you enroll less than full-time and/or your weeks of enrollment are less than 16 weeks each semester, your financial aid awards may be reduced or cancelled.
- Federal Pell Grant will be prorated to 75% for 9 to 11 credit hours, 50% for 6 to 8 hours, and with most EFCs, 25% for less than 6 hours.
- MAP grants will be reduced if not enrolled in 15 hours.
- You must be enrolled full-time (12 credit hours per semester) to receive Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Scholarship (SEDS), Access to Education Award (A2E1, A2E2, A2E3, A2E4), EIU Tuition Grant (TUI), and Disadvantaged Student Waiver (DSSWU/O). If you are not enrolled full-time, this aid will be cancelled for the year.
- Federal Direct Loans require enrollment in at least 6 credit hours per term.

Changes to your awards and disbursements of your awards can be viewed on PAWS. You may request changes to loans by entering a specific request in the text box under the Resources / Additional Information tab in PAWS. A revised Award Letter will be available on PAWS.

Undergraduate and graduate students must be accepted into a degree program in order for financial aid to be paid. Graduate students must be enrolled in a minimum of 6 hours in courses that will be applied to their graduate program requirements to qualify for graduate loan limits.

Census Date Policy

In accordance with federal regulations, the Office of Financial Aid will recalculate federal, state, and institutional student aid awards based on the enrollment status as of the published Census Date (Count Day) by the Office of the Registrar, which is typically the end of the 10th day of class for both fall and spring terms. (The Census Date for summer enrollment will vary based on the length of the course(s) taken. Refer to the Academic Calendar for those dates.) Generally, this policy typically coincides with the end of the drop/add period for each semester. All federal, state, and institutional aid will be based upon the Census Date enrollment status. (State and institutional aid will NOT be adjusted upward or downward throughout the semester NOR will these types of aid be calculated based on Billed Hours.)

Conditions of Awards

By accepting the aid offered on PAWS, you are agreeing to the conditions stated as follows:

- You understand you must complete loan counseling and sign a Master Promissory Note prior to the first disbursement of a Direct Loan
- You understand that aid can be canceled if you do not accept my awards within 20 days.
- You will repay any aid for which you become ineligible due to withdrawal, change in eligibility status, etc.
- You understand your financial aid awards are subject to adjustments or cancellations due to changes in laws, regulations, appropriations, changes in financial situation, verification, discovery of data errors, changes in enrollment status (hours or weeks, grade class), or changes in residency status, amongst others.
- You understand you must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress. For a copy of the policy see the Financial Aid Website.

Additional Assistance Not Listed on the Award Letter

It is your responsibility to notify the Office of Financial Aid **IN WRITING** of any awards that you receive which are not listed on your Award Letter. Failure to notify the office can result in repayment of financial aid already disbursed.

Disbursement

Financial aid will not disburse to your student account until you are **ATTENDING AT LEAST 1 CLASS**. Federal Direct Student Loans will not disburse to your account until you are **ATTENDING AT LEAST 6 SEMESTER HOURS**. All financial aid (except work-study), of which we have knowledge, will be reflected on the July billing. Be sure you read the billing statement carefully and contact the Student Accounts Office, 217-581-3715, if you have any questions. You can view billing information and amount owed to EIU on PAWS under Student Accounts.

If funds disburse to your account and the amount is more than the total of your bill with EIU, the Student Accounts Office will issue you a refund in 5-10 business days. If you have not made arrangements for refunds to be direct deposited into your bank account, refunds are mailed to your local address.

