FINANCIAL AID

Award Letter

Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships

www.ohio.edu/financialaid
Dear Bobcat,

Congratulations on your admission to Ohio University! We recognize both the significant investment and excellent value of the OHIO experience, and we’re here to help students and families navigate the path of funding their education. Enclosed is your Financial Aid Award Letter, which outlines the financial aid we are offering to you, along with estimated costs and your anticipated out-of-pocket expenses.

Carefully review your Award Letter in conjunction with this enclosure, which provides award instructions and details, financial aid policies, and information on additional payment options.

On behalf of the Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships, I welcome you to Ohio University and wish you well in your academic pursuits!

Sincerely,
Valerie Miller
Director

BENEFITS OF THE OHIO GUARANTEE™

Ohio University is proud to offer The OHIO Guarantee. The OHIO Guarantee is a cohort based, level-rate tuition, housing, dining, and fee model that assures students and their families a set of comprehensive rates for the pursuit of an undergraduate degree at Ohio University.

- Tuition, housing, dining, and fee rates established at enrollment remain unchanged for 12 consecutive semesters.
- This offers students and families predictability, transparency, and stability of tuition and other related expenses at Ohio University’s Athens Campus.

UNDERSTANDING COSTS

The OHIO Guarantee impacts you by keeping your direct charges constant from year to year. Your total Cost of Attendance includes both direct charges and indirect costs. Direct charges are those billed by Ohio University and will appear on your account. Direct charges include tuition and fees as well as residence hall and dining charges, if you are living on campus. Indirect costs include any other educational expenses that are not billed to you via your Ohio University account. Examples include estimates for purchasing books and supplies, transportation home and around campus, and miscellaneous personal expenses.

Your Award Letter provides an estimated out-of-pocket expense. The out-of-pocket expense subtracts the financial aid you are offered from your estimated direct charges and is the annual
amount you can anticipate paying Ohio University during the current academic year. If you plan to apply for additional loans to cover the out-of-pocket expense, you could choose the out-of-pocket amount listed or an increased amount. The increased amount, also listed on your Award Letter, would cover your direct charges and produce a refund each semester to assist in covering indirect costs.

**PAYMENT OPTIONS**

Now is the time to plan how you will pay your out-of-pocket expenses. Your account balance is due on the 21st day of the month following your registration. Students who register during the Bobcat Student Orientation sessions in June will receive an account notification via e-mail around August 1. The entire balance less your anticipated financial aid for the fall semester is due August 21. Any unpaid balance will be assessed a 1.5% late fee each month it remains unpaid. If you wish to pay this balance in installments, Ohio University offers an interest-free payment plan. For details and enrollment instructions for the payment plan, visit [www.ohio.edu/finance/bursar/mpp.cfm](http://www.ohio.edu/finance/bursar/mpp.cfm)

**LOAN OPTIONS**

Loan options include the Federal PLUS Loan and private loans. Parents of dependent students can apply for a PLUS Loan to cover out-of-pocket expenses or to fully meet the student’s cost of attendance. This loan is borrowed in a parent’s name. The parent must pass a credit check or obtain a credit-worthy endorser to utilize this loan. If a parent is denied based on adverse credit, the student can obtain an additional unsubsidized loan for up to $4,000 annually in lieu of the PLUS loan. You can begin applying for a PLUS Loan on May 1. We recommend completing the process by July 1 to allow for timely processing and disbursement of funds.

A private loan is through a lending agency. The loan is typically in the student’s name, but students must have a credit-worthy co-signer. These loans can cover out-of-pocket expenses or fully meet the cost of attendance. Ohio University offers a tool to search for private loan lenders at [www.ohio.edu/financialaid/loans/loans_alt.cfm](http://www.ohio.edu/financialaid/loans/loans_alt.cfm). We recommend applying for a private loan between April 1 and July 1.

The PLUS Loan Request Process is available beginning May 1 at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov). The parent logs in with his or her Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID and selects “Request a Direct PLUS Loan” and “Parent PLUS Loan.” The parent borrower must also complete a Master Promissory Note at this site.

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**NEXT STEPS**

The following are the next steps you should take in order to finalize your financial aid. We recommend you take action on these items before you attend Bobcat Student Orientation; however, you can complete these steps at any time.

1. **Activate your OHIO ID** now at [www.ohio.edu/myid](http://www.ohio.edu/myid). You will need your PID from your application acknowledgement letter and your birth date. If you’ve misplaced or forgotten your PID, you can contact Undergraduate Admissions at 740.593.4100.

2. **View your financial aid award information** on your OHIO Student Center at sis.ohio.edu/student. Select each award name for specific details.

3. **Accept, reduce, or decline your loans** on your OHIO Student Center by selecting “Accept/Decline Awards” under the Finances section. Grants and scholarships are automatically accepted. You must accept any loans you wish to use.

4. **Complete a Master Promissory Note** at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov) by selecting “Complete Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN)” if accepting your Federal Direct Loans.

5. **Complete Loan Counseling** at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov) by selecting “Complete Entrance Counseling” if accepting Federal Direct Loans.

6. **Determine how to pay** your out-of-pocket expenses!

7. If you have a Perkins loan, **complete the Perkins Promissory Note** on your Student Center.

8. If you have a TEACH grant, **complete Counseling and an Agreement to Serve** at [https://teach-ats.ed.gov](https://teach-ats.ed.gov).

9. If you have Federal Work-Study, **select a position** at [https://webapps.ohio.edu/faos](https://webapps.ohio.edu/faos).

10. **Check your To-Do List** on your OHIO Student Center often and complete any listed action items!
DISBURSEMENT

It is important to check your online To-Do List on your OHIO Student Center at sis.ohio.edu/student. If your FAFSA is selected for the verification process, any requested tax information or other forms will be listed on the To-Do List. All financial aid awards are considered tentative until verification is completed.

Each semester, you must be registered in the appropriate number of credit hours in order for your financial aid to disburse toward your University student account. To receive the full disbursement of any federal grants you have been offered, you must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credit hours. Federal Direct Loans, including the Perkins loan, require you to be half-time, a minimum of six credit hours. First-time freshmen will receive their first Federal Direct Loan disbursement 30 days after the fall semester begins.

SCHOLARSHIPS

At Ohio University, your application for admission serves as your application for most freshman scholarships. Your Award Letter is inclusive of all scholarships we are offering to you. Make sure to visit your Student Center at sis.ohio.edu/student to review enrollment requirements to receive your scholarship disbursement as well as criteria for scholarship renewal. Select the name of each scholarship for specific details. Most Ohio University scholarships require you to enroll in a minimum of 15 credit hours each semester.

We encourage you to seek outside scholarship opportunities through your high school, parents’ employers, community-based organizations, and corporations. If you are receiving a scholarship from an outside source, please endorse the check (if required) and mail it to ATTN: Outside Agency Scholarships, Ohio University, Chubb Hall 020, Athens, OH 45701. Outside agency scholarship awards of $1,000 or less will be applied fully to fall semester unless otherwise specified by the donor. All other scholarships are divided equally between fall and spring semesters.

Beginning in December, you should apply for continuing student scholarships. An e-mail will be sent to your Catmail account once the application is available. You must complete this application annually by March 1.

MAINTAINING FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY

You must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each year to apply for financial aid. The 2017–2018 FAFSA becomes available in October 2016. Make sure to file early to meet Ohio University’s first-priority deadline to ensure consideration for all federal, state, and institutional funds, including renewal of need-based scholarships. Ohio University will communicate reminders and deadlines via your Catmail account. Make sure you check your e-mail often.

To continue receiving financial aid, you must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). SAP requirements are reviewed at the end of each spring semester. You must:

- Maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA (1.75 for first-year students)
- Successfully complete 67% or more of the courses in which you enroll
- Complete your degree within the maximum allotted timeframe (180 hours for a bachelor’s degree)

Students not meeting the above criteria are ineligible to receive further financial aid, including federal, state, and institutional grants and federal loans. Please read the SAP policy details at www.ohio.edu/financialaid/postapply/postapply_sap.cfm.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships
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1 Ohio University
Athens OH 45701
www.ohio.edu/financialaid
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Follow us on Twitter @OHIOStuFinAid
Walk-in hours 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For all next steps to enrollment, visit www.ohio.edu/admitted