

Student Academic Services Newsletter

Fall 2013

As we begin a new semester, we wanted to remind you of the administrative services that are here to help as you are busy with your classes and clinicals. We are happy to inform you that our new Office of Student Academic Services is now located in the Curtis Building, Suite 115. This new office combines the University Office of the Registrar (including Space Management and Graduation), and the University Office of Financial Aid, and its goal is to provide you with the support that you need to fulfill the administrative requirements of your academic career. The Office of

Student Academic Services is eager to serve as your source of information for anything from class registration, financing options, student organization and study room reservations, to applying for graduation and all related matters. Please visit us on the Web and at the email addresses noted below:

[University Office of Student Financial Aid](#)
[Registrar's Office](#)

Financial Aid and Registrar Contact and Walk-in Hours

Monday through Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Financial Aid

215-955-2867

financial.aid@jefferson.edu

Registrar

215-503-8734

university.registrar@jefferson.edu

Commencement/Graduation

graduation@jefferson.edu

Room Reservations

roomrequest@jefferson.edu

Inside this Issue

General Announcements.....	2
Dates and Deadlines.....	2
Financial Aid Announcements.....	3
Space Management and Room Reservations.....	4
Study Space Reservations.....	4



We're here to help!

General Announcements

We've Moved!

The University Offices of Student Financial Aid and Registrar have moved to the 1st Floor Curtis Building, Suite 115. The NEW Academic Services Office can help you with both your financial aid matters and scheduling or grade issues. Our individual phone numbers and email addresses have not changed, so contact us if you need assistance. We are here to help.

Give us your Feedback

How has your experience been with our offices? Please let us know by completing a short survey (anonymously) on Survey Monkey. Each survey consists of 5 questions and a free form section for any information you wish to include. We take your feedback seriously and appreciate your comments.

[Financial Aid Office survey](#)

[Registrar Office survey](#)

Weather Emergency Procedures

Weather emergency information is available via Pulse, the Jefferson hotline at 800-858-8806, and the TJUH Intranet.

University Committee of Student Advisors

As defined in the Committee's Mission Statement:

"The University Committee of Student Advisors (CSA) is comprised of student representatives from each of the aca-

demical divisions (College/Schools/Departments) of Thomas Jefferson University and administration from the University Offices of Financial Aid, Housing, Registrar, Tuition/Cashiers, JeffIT, Activities/Wellness Center, and Bookstore. Other members of TJU's administrative structure are invited to meetings on an ad hoc basis. CSA students serve as liaisons to assist the administration in disseminating important, helpful, and accurate information and in providing constructive feedback from their student colleagues. CSA members meet monthly to discuss current policies and procedures, develop suggestions and strategies, and initiate and implement community-based projects in and around Jefferson."

Students can become a member of CSA by being nominated by a member of the faculty or administration or by self-selection. If you are interested in joining this Committee, we welcome you to contact Dr. Raelynn Cooter at Raelynn.Cooter@jefferson.edu. In addition to providing your name, please let her know the academic division you will be representing.

Holiday Gift Drive

Support the 2013 Holiday Gift Drive to benefit families in local organizations that support women and children in transition and provide services for family members in need. This project is sponsored by the University Committee of Student Advisors. Please stay tuned for upcoming dates and volunteer information.

Important Dates and Deadlines

2014 Graduation/Commencement Ceremonies

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

The Pennsylvania Convention Center

Time: 10:00 AM

Jefferson School of Health Professions

Jefferson School of Pharmacy

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

The Pennsylvania Convention Center

Time: 2:30 PM

Jefferson School of Nursing

Thursday, May 29, 2014

The Kimmel Center

Time: 10:30 AM

Jefferson Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Jefferson Medical College

Jefferson School of Population Health

Online Graduation Application

Dear Class of 2014: Congratulations on your upcoming graduation! The online graduation application will be avail-

able on Banner Web early November for students graduating during the current academic year. This includes students planning to graduate in December 2013, May, 2014 or August, 2014. An email notice will be sent when the site becomes available directing you to <https://banner.jefferson.edu> to apply for graduation.

Online Registration for Spring 2014

(Please note these are anticipated dates.)

JSPH

October 31, 2013

JGSBS

November 4, 2013

JSN/JSHP/JSP

November 11, 2013

JMC

Please refer to the Class Organization site on Pulse for add/drop dates for rotations.



Financial Aid Announcements

Legislative Update

Interest Rate Change on Federal Loans

On August 9, 2013, President Obama signed into law The Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act of 2013, which puts into effect a new interest rate calculation for federal loans disbursed on or after July 1, 2013 and going forward.

The new interest rates are based on the final auction of the 10-year Treasury Note rate prior to June 1st of a given year plus a statutory defined “add-on” percentage. The add-on percentage differs depending on the type of loan and the student’s grade level. Each loan also has an interest rate ceiling or cap. The interest rate for a loan (established upon disbursement) will apply for the life of that loan, thus becoming a fixed interest rate loan.

The interest rate for loans made on or after July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014 is based on the 10-year Treasury note rate of 1.810, as follows:

- 3.86% for Stafford loans to undergraduate students, based on the 10-year Treasury note rate plus 2.05%; interest ceiling of 8.25%.
- 5.41% for Stafford loans to graduate students, based on the 10-year Treasury note rate plus 3.6%; interest ceiling of 9.5%.
- 6.41% for Parent PLUS and Graduate PLUS loans based on the 10-year Treasury note rate plus 4.6%; interest ceiling of 10.5%.

As a result of this new interest rate calculation structure, it is likely that many borrowers will have a set of fixed-rate loans, each with a different interest rate, including the 3.4%, 6.8%, and/or 7.9% interest rates for federal student loans issued prior to July 1, 2013.

The Financial Aid Office is here to assist you with creating repayment strategies that best suits your needs in light of these recent changes.

Increases in Federal Direct Loan Fees

Due to sequestration, the percentage of loan fees charged on federal student loans has increased effective July 1, 2013 and is slated for another increase effective December 1, 2013 for any loan for which the first disbursement is made on or after this date. This means that you will continue to see more funding withheld from your loan proceeds due to the increase in fees charged at disbursement. Loan fee changes are as follows:

	2012-13 academic year and prior	first disbursement July 1, 2013 to November 30, 2013	first disbursement December 1, 2013 and after
Federal Direct Stafford Loan	1%	1.051%	1.072%
Federal Direct GRAD PLUS and Parent PLUS Loan	4%	4.204%	4.288%

File IRS Tax Return Before Completing Your FAFSA for 2014-2015 Year

For the upcoming 2014-2015 financial aid application process, applicants and parents of dependent applicants will be required to complete the FAFSA after their Federal Income Tax Returns have been filed. This is to allow students and parents to transfer their IRS tax data directly into their FAFSA. The IRS Data Retrieval Tool will be available to use one to two weeks after the federal income tax return is filed if the return is filed electronically and six to eight weeks after filing a paper return.

Allowing the data to be transferred from the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to the FAFSA without modification will reduce the likelihood that the applicant’s FAFSA will be selected for verification, potentially saving the applicant time.

In rare instances, some students and/or parents may not be eligible to utilize the IRS Data Retrieval Tool process. In these cases, an IRS Tax Transcript must be submitted. The Financial Aid Office will work with students individually when special circumstances arise. Please note that your financial aid award cannot be finalized (processed or disbursed) until the Verification Process is complete.

We highly recommend you file your Federal taxes first, wait 10 days and then use this IRS Data Retrieval tool for reasons listed below:

- It’s the easiest way to provide your tax data.
- It’s the best way of ensuring that your FAFSA has accurate tax information.
- You may not need to provide a copy of your or your parents’ tax returns.
- If you do not use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to provide tax information, you will be required to obtain an official tax transcript from the IRS which can add four to six weeks to the processing of your application.

For more information about the FAFSA IRS Data Retrieval process or the method to request a Tax Transcript from the IRS, [please see our Web site.](#)

Loss of Interest Subsidy During Six-month Grace Period

Public Law 112-74 amended the Higher Education Act to temporarily eliminate the interest subsidy provided on Direct Subsidized Stafford Loans during the six month grace period provided to students. For most students, the grace period is used after graduation. This change affects Federal Direct Subsidized Stafford Loans for which the first disbursement is made on or after July 1, 2012 and before July 1, 2014. If you received a subsidized Stafford Loan during this timeframe, you will be responsible for the interest that accrues on this loan(s) while in the grace period. You do not have to make payments during the grace period, but the interest will accrue and be added (capitalize) to your principal at the end of this 6 month period.

Federal Pell Grant Duration Of Eligibility

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2012 made significant changes to federal student financial assistance programs including limitations to the duration in which students (undergraduates with no bachelor's degree who meet the federal financial qualifications) may receive a Federal Pell Grant. A student's eligibility to receive Federal Pell Grant is reduced to 12 semesters at full-time enrollment (or equivalent of six years, or 600%). Student eligibility will include all years the student received Federal Pell Grant funding and will be measured as a percentage called Life-

time Eligibility Used (LEU). If your LEU is greater than or equal to 600%, this means that you are no longer eligible to receive Pell Grant funding. If your LEU is greater than 500% but less than 600, this means the amount of your award is/will be reduced from the typical eligible maximum you would normally be entitled to. For information on how the Department of Education calculates the "equivalent of six years", please go to: www.studentaid.ed.gov/pell-limit.

2013-2014 Fall, Spring, Summer Financial Aid Disbursement Dates

To better assist you with your financial aid planning, the University Office of Student Financial Aid has posted to our website the 2013-2014 financial aid disbursement dates for each school. Also posted is the expected "refund" date for which any overage of financial aid remaining (if applicable) after satisfying your semester tuition obligation, will be available. Click to see the [Disbursement Schedules](#).

If you would like to reduce your loan funds for an upcoming term, the Financial Aid Office asks that you notify the office at least one month prior to your disbursement date. Please send an email to financial.aid@jefferson.edu using your Jefferson email account, and indicating the current amount of the disbursement and the amount you wish to revise it to. If you have any questions regarding this process, contact the office at (215) 955-2867.

Space Management and Room Reservations

Find all the information you need to request a room, view space availability, see image shots and more, at the [Room Reservation Web site](#).

Reserve a Room

Attention Student Organizations! Do you need a room for your meetings or events? Just follow these easy steps!

1. Submit your completed event request to the Activities Office at Kimberly.Graham@jefferson.edu for event approval (include: student organization, name, date, actual event start/end time, desired space, event name, expected number of attendees, requestor's name/number/Jefferson email, College/School affiliation)
2. The Activities Office will respond to the requestor and Space Management with an approval.

3. Space Management will respond within two to four business days via email with a room confirmation. Last minute requests are subject to available resources and may not be processed.

Need a suggestion for which space to request? Try one of these:

*Bluemle Life Sciences Building (BLSB): Rooms 101 & Lobby, 105, 107

*Jefferson Alumni Hall (JAH): Rooms 139, 207, 307, 407; Eakins Lounge; The Courtyard; Solis-Cohen Auditorium; Brent Auditorium; and Rooms M-21, M-23, M-24,;M-25.

Hamilton rooms are not available for student organization events.

Study Space Reservations at TJU

Hamilton Study Space

Up to four classrooms in Hamilton (depending on classes and other events) will be provided as study space between the hours of 8 am and 12 am. Of these four, two classrooms will be available for specific reservations of up to four hours during the day and up to six hours after 5 pm if the study group includes at least 5 people. The other two classrooms will be set aside as quiet open study rooms that will be available to all students without requiring an advanced reservation. The two quiet open study spaces will be posted at the Hamilton Security Desk.

Students using classrooms as study space must show their Jefferson ID, sign in at the Security Desk with their name and Campus Key, indicate in which room they will be studying and sign-out when they leave. Students who do not sign-out maintain responsibility for that room.

Students using general areas such as the lobby areas on the first or second floors as study space must show their Jefferson ID, sign in at the Security Desk with their name and Campus Key, indicate in what area they will be studying and sign-out when they leave.

To facilitate accommodating all requests, requests for study space for groups of five or more must be submitted via email or in person not more than one week and not less than 48 hours prior to your study period.

The procedure for reserving Hamilton Building study space is as follows: Submit requests to roomrequest@jefferson.edu. Requests must include the following information (incomplete requests cannot be processed and will delay scheduling): Desired study dates for one week only thru the next Sunday, start and end times, number of attendees with names of at least 5 participants, requestor's/contact's name and Campus Key, phone number and College/School (JGSBS, JMC, JSHP, JSN, JSP or JSPH), and requestor's Jefferson e-mail address.

New Study Spaces

If you like studying alone or with a group, the Student Collaboration Rooms in the Scott Memorial Library are the rooms for you!

Here are some helpful links and information to help you schedule your study space.

[General information about study space](#)

[Insiders Guide to Study Space](#)

[Student Collaboration Rooms](#)

Second Floor Collaboration Rooms

- Rooms may be reserved for two-hour blocks at a time.
- Room reservations will be accepted up to one week in advance and up to 11PM the night before. Same day reservations may not be made online but can be made at the circulation desk. [Check V-EMS](#) online to see if a room is available. Scroll down to view the Scott Memorial Library student collaboration rooms 200B-200K.

- Rooms may be used by pairs before noon. After noon, use requires at least three students.
- Scott Student Study/Collaboration Rooms include:
 - *Installed Macintosh computers with large screen monitors;
 - *Available cables for connecting your own laptop or iPad;
 - *Available webcams for video conferencing (Skype and Adobe Connect ready);
 - *Sixty square feet of white board space;
 - *Seating for six and room for up to 10 students, (Please note: at least three students must be present to use the study rooms);
 - *Totally secure environment.

Third Floor Individual/Pair Study Rooms

- There are six small rooms available for individual use or pairs.

