

SKMC's Introduction to Financing Your Medical Education

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This bulletin is published by the University Office of Student Financial Aid at Thomas Jefferson University for prospective students applying for admission to Sidney Kimmel Medical College for the fall of 2016. It contains information about application requirements, alternative sources of funding, estimated expenses, indebtedness data of prior Jefferson graduates, and educational loan parameters. Also included is a short directory of telephone numbers that may be useful to you when applying to Jefferson.

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Welcome

This publication introduces you to the University Office of Student Financial Aid at Thomas Jefferson University. The Office assists students in obtaining resources to finance a medical education, as well as serves as an educational resource for financial planning and debt management.

We encourage all prospective students to begin the financial planning process early. To assist in this process, we have included “Financial Aid Application Requirements.” This itemized list highlights the basic requirements for applying for financial aid at Jefferson and emphasizes key dates for completing the process. This section also includes information for students who may not be eligible for need-based financial aid. The “Requirements” section offers more detailed information, whereas “Applying for Financial Aid At-A-Glance” is a quick reference.

We have also included a segment on educational indebtedness giving some specific data regarding prior student borrowing at Sidney Kimmel Medical College. As a point of reference, we have included a copy of the SKMC student budget for the current 2015–2016 academic year. This will offer you a benchmark from which to estimate your expenses for 2016–2017.

For many of you, financing your medical education necessitates borrowing, maybe for the first time. To help you make wise choices, we offer information about specific loan programs.

The section entitled “Loan Facts” provides an overview of the loan programs available to medical students. This information is especially important as it outlines the specific obligations of each loan program.

Please plan to contact the Financial Aid Office for further detailed information.

Notice of nondiscrimination policy

Thomas Jefferson University, in accordance with local, state, and federal law, is committed to providing equal educational and employment opportunities for all persons, without regard to race, color, national and ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation, sex, age, disability, or veteran's status. Thomas Jefferson University complies with all relevant local ordinances and state and federal statutes in the administration of its educational and employment policies and is an Affirmative Action Employer. Any inquiries may be directed to the Manager of Employee Relations or to the University's Affirmative Action Officer at 833 Chestnut Street, 215-503-7758.

Financial Aid Application Requirements

What constitutes a "complete" financial aid application?

A completed Financial Aid Application (in applying for all institutionally administered funds) consists of the following:

- A processed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) document at www.fafsa.ed.gov Sidney Kimmel Medical College federal school code: 010021.
- A completed Jefferson Institutional Application and Verification Worksheet.
- Signed photocopy of a parent's 2015 Federal Income Tax Return (or non-filing statement if a tax return is not required to be filed).
- Students who expect to file a 2015 Federal Income tax return must submit their 1040 to the IRS before completing the FAFSA. After the tax returns are processed with the IRS, the student can then complete do the FAFSA using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool. If the Data Retrieval transfer cannot be used, the student must request a tax transcript from the IRS at www.irs.gov.

What parental info must be supplied?

To be considered for Jefferson Institutional Aid, parental financial information must be submitted to the Financial Aid Office as part of your Financial Aid Application. A photocopy of the parent 2015 Federal Income Tax Return must be submitted to the Financial Aid Office and all parental information must be included on all appropriate sections on the FAFSA and Verification Worksheet. Please note that no exceptions may be made.

When are Financial Aid Applications available?

On or about January 15, Financial Aid information is emailed to all accepted students. Students accepted after January 15 will be sent an email within one week of their acceptance date. Instructions for accessing online financial aid applications are included with this communication. Please note that only accepted students are able to access the online financial aid application. Late accepts should file applications within two weeks of acceptance.

Do I need to be a U.S. citizen?

A student must be a U.S. Citizen or permanent resident of the U.S. to receive institutional financial aid as well as aid through federal loan and scholarship programs. No exceptions will be made.

A limited number of private loan programs from outside vendors are available to students who are neither a credit-worthy U.S. citizen nor a permanent resident, but have a U.S. citizen cosigner. For information contact the University Office of Financial Aid.

What is Entrance Counseling?

If you borrow any type of federal student loan, you are federally required to complete a federal online Entrance Counseling Session at www.studentloans.gov. The purpose is to provide you with all of the pertinent information about the loans you may borrow. It is not necessary to wait until you have completed an Entrance Counseling to submit loan applications. It is suggested that loan application materials be submitted between May 1, 2016 and July 1, 2016. Please note that loans may not be disbursed until the Entrance Counseling requirement has been met.

When will I receive notification from the Financial Aid Office concerning my aid eligibility?

Students who have completed all financial aid application materials (listed above) by March 1 can expect notification of eligibility by late March/early April. Financial aid eligibility notifications will continue to be sent daily throughout the summer.

What is the Federal Direct Stafford Loan?

To be considered for institutional aid, you must plan to first borrow at least \$10,000 in the Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loan Program. This means that any institutional aid you may be eligible for will be over and above this amount. Please note that with the passage of the Budget Control Act of 2011, as of July 1, 2012, the Federal Subsidized Direct Stafford Loan will cease to exist for graduate students. The maximum Federal Direct Stafford Loan will remain, but 100% will have interest accrue.

Please Note: Some of these facts may apply to other medical schools as well as Sidney Kimmel Medical College. It is recommended that you contact each school in which you are interested to inquire about particular institutional policies and deadlines. Eligibility for all forms of financial aid is determined annually and is contingent upon the availability of funding.

How can I apply for the Federal Direct Stafford Loan?

All students applying for Federal Stafford Loan funds are required to complete both:

- The Federal Stafford Loan Application (where students indicate the amount they wish to borrow); and
- A separate Master Promissory Note (MPN) (the signed form acknowledging responsibility for repaying the debt).

Returning students will be required to complete the general application requirements, including the Federal Stafford Loan section of the institutional application.

With the passage of the Student Loan Reform bill, effective July 1, 2010, all Federal Stafford, Graduate PLUS lending will be completed only by the William D. Ford Federal Direct Lending Program (otherwise known as "Direct Lending" or "Direct Loans.") Unlike the prior lending structure, which involved numerous banking entities, under Direct Lending, the sole lender is the Department of Education.

To complete the Direct Lending Master Promissory note (MPN), please follow these instructions:

- Go to the Studentloans.gov Web site.
- Under the Manage My Direct Loan menu box, click Sign In and complete login with your FSA User ID. Then click Complete Master Promissory Note.
- Follow the steps given and select Thomas Jefferson University when school name is requested.

The annual maximum for the Federal Direct Stafford loan is \$44,944 (for an 11-month academic year).

What are non-need based programs?

Students who are not eligible for need-based financial aid programs have two alternative ways to finance their medical education.

Service Commitment Scholarships

This category includes the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) as well as military scholarships (AFHPS) through the Air Force, Army, or Navy. Both the NHSC and the AFHPS programs offer full payment of tuition and health insurance, reimbursement for required books and supplies, and a monthly stipend to meet living expenses. The service obligation requires one year for each year of support, with a minimum

two-year commitment for the National Health Service Corps and minimum three-year commitment for Armed Forces Service Scholarships. Students interested in obtaining additional information about these programs may contact the Financial Aid Office or the specific governing/recruiting agencies at the telephone numbers listed:

National Health Service Corps	800-221-9393
Air Force	215-978-0138
Army	856-414-1924
Navy	800-322-4460

Alternative Loan Programs

Students not eligible for need-based, subsidized loans may still be eligible to borrow through non-subsidized, alternative loan programs. The parameters for these programs (e.g., Federal Direct Stafford, Federal Graduate PLUS Loan, and Private Educational Loans) are included in the "Loan Facts" chart on the last page. However, as these programs represent higher cost loans, we encourage students to consider all options, including securing a loan from parents, before choosing these programs. Information about additional alternative loan sources is available at Jefferson.edu/financialaid.

How do I know if I'm credit worthy?

Lenders administering most alternative loan programs must determine the applicant to be creditworthy prior to the loan application being approved. Loan applications may be denied if you have one or more unresolved credit problems. To request a copy of your free credit report, go to www.annualcreditreport.com or contact each agency is listed below:

EQUIFAX (equifax.com)	888-685-1111
TRANSUNION (transunion.com)	800-888-4213
EXPERIAN (experian.com)	888-397-3742

What if I am delinquent on another loan?

To be eligible for any federal, state, or institutional loan funds, students cannot be in default on any prior educational loans. If a student demonstrates financial need, but is ineligible for federal grants and/or loans due to default or delinquency status on a prior Private Educational loan, Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University will not commit institutional funds to remedy the default status or to compensate for the ineligibility for these funds. It is the student's responsibility to resolve all problems involving loan delinquencies, defaults, negative credit rating, and any other circumstances that would result in the student being ineligible to borrow through any federal or private loan program.

Applying for Financial Aid¹ "At - A - Glance"

	Financial Aid File Must be Complete ² to Determine Eligibility	Must Demonstrate Financial Need (i.e., Need Based Programs)	Must First Apply for Federal Direct Stafford Loan	Must be Repaid	Contingent upon Availability of Funds	Service Commitment Required
SKMC Scholarship	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no
SKMC Loans	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Primary Care Loan	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes
Delaware/DIMER Scholarship	Yes for need-based consideration	yes	yes	no	yes ³	no
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan	yes	no	yes	yes	no	no
Private Loan Programs	yes	no	yes	yes	no	no
Federal Direct Grad PLUS Loan	yes	no	N/A	yes	no	no

¹ This chart should be used only as a quick reference as it does not include all sources of financial aid, nor all eligibility requirements. Students should refer to SKMC's Financial Aid Handbook for additional resource/eligibility information, and contact the Financial Aid Office for specific information regarding individual eligibility. The Financial Aid Handbook can be viewed or downloaded from our Web site at Jefferson.edu/financialaid.

² The specific items that must be filed to complete your financial aid application file are listed on page 2 of this publication. Additional application requirements for the DIMER Scholarship Program are specified within the context of the description of this program contained in the *Financial Aid Handbook*.

³ The amount of funding is dictated by the State of Delaware and may fluctuate yearly based on approval of state budget and meeting the July 15 deadline.

SKMC Educational Indebtedness Data

Below is the educational "Debt Bracket" breakdown for SKMC's Class of 2015. This includes debt that was incurred by these students prior to their entrance to Sidney Kimmel Medical College.

Debt Bracket	Number of 2015 Graduates
\$1- 19,999	18
\$20,000 - 39,999	7
\$40,000 - 59,999	4
\$60,000 - 79,999	6
\$80,000 - 99,999	4
\$100,000 - 119,999	9
\$120,000 - 149,999	14
\$150,000 - 189,999	34
\$190,000 - 209,999	16
\$210,000 - 249,999	35
\$250,000 and above	62

Single Student Expenses 2015-2016

Tuition	\$53,311
Fees	850
Books and Supplies	1,060
Instruments/Microscope	
Rental	249
Room and Board	17,391
Transportation	500
Medical-Dental	450
Major Medical	4,681
Miscellaneous	1,375
Estimated Loan Fees	482
TOTAL	\$80,349

Translating Financial Aid Acronyms

<u>Abbreviation</u>	<u>Definition</u>
AFHPS	Armed Forces Health Professionals Scholarship
ALP	Alternative Loan Program
DIMER	Delaware Institute of Medical Education and Research
FAFSA	Free Application for Federal Student Aid
SKMC	Sidney Kimmel Medical College
LDS	Loans for Disadvantaged Students
MPN	Master Promissory Note
NHSC	National Health Service Corps
PCL*	Primary Care Loan
PERKINS	Federal Perkins Loan
PHEAA	Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency
PMS	Pennsylvania Medical Society
SDS	Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students
STAFFORD	Federal Direct Stafford Loan

* The PCL program requires commitment to complete residency and practice in primary care.

Important Phone Numbers

Admissions	215-955-6983
Cashier's/Tuition	215-503-7669
Financial Aid	215-955-2867
Housing	215-955-8913
Registrar	215-503-8734
Student Affairs	215-503-6988

Helpful Web Sites

NHSC	nhsc.hrsa.gov
FAFSA	fafsa.ed.gov
Internal Revenue Service	irs.gov
Nat'l Student Loan Data System	nslds.ed.gov
PA Medical Society	oundationpamedsoc.org

Loan Facts

Comparative Information on Selected Federal and Private Loans (Parameters specified in this chart are subject to change)

Loan Program	Annual Maximum	Total Aggregate Maximum	Interest Rate	Federally Subsidized while enrolled	Interest Un-subsidized & accrues starting at disbursement	Grace period & deferment	Maximum years repayment
PCL (requires commitment to practice in primary care)	Tuition + \$2,500 (contingent on availability of funds)	Variable	5% (2)	Yes	No	12 months + 3 yr residency	10
LDS	Same as PCL	Variable	5% (2)	Yes	No	12 months + residency	10
SKMC*	Variable	Variable	5% (2)		No	12 months	10
PMS	Variable	Variable	Variable (4)		Yes	Up to 5 years	10
Federal Direct Stafford	\$40,500/9-month enrollment	\$224,000 (incl. total amount borrowed in Federal Direct Subsidized Stafford funds)	(5) Variable fixed	No	Yes	6 months (3)	10
Federal Direct Grad PLUS Loan	Financial Aid minus budget	None	(5) Variable fixed	No	Yes	None (3)	30
Private Loans	None (cost minus all other financial aid not to exceed student budget)	Varies by Lender	Fixed or Variable	No	Yes	6-9 month grace period to 4 yr. residency	15

(1) Residency deferment privileges are not available for Federal Perkins loans for which the first disbursement is made on or after 7-1-93. Postponement of payment may be available via forbearance in which payment of principal is postponed, but interest will accrue.
 (2) 0% interest until repayment.
 (3) New** Federal Subsidized Stafford and Federal Unsubsidized Stafford borrowers** whose first disbursement on the loan was made on or after 7-1-93 may only apply for forbearance. (Note: during forbearance payment of the principal will be postponed, but interest will accrue on both subsidized and unsubsidized Stafford funds.)
 (4) 91 day T-Bill plus 2.5%, not to exceed 6%. Accrued school interest will not capitalize until repayment.

(5) 10-year T-BILL plus 3.6% for graduate Stafford loans disbursed on or after July 1, 2013.
 (6) 10-year T-BILL plus 4.6% for PLUS loans disbursed on or after July 1, 2013
 * Parameters listed for SKMC loans apply to all SKMC loans except Mabel S. Wayland, Mabel Cunnison, the Melba W. Snyder, the W. K. Kellogg, the Nancy Bacharach, and the Robert Wood Johnson loans. See the Financial Aid Office for parameters of these specific loans.
 ** A 'New Borrower' is one who has no outstanding balance on a Federal Stafford (formerly GSL), Federal SLS, Federal PLUS, Federally Insured Student Loan (FISL) or Federal Consolidation Loan on the date he or she signed the promissory note and who received a loan under one of these programs on or after July 1, 1993.