

FINANCIAL SERVICES

General Information

The Financial Services Department at Everglades University provides assistance to students who need financial aid in order to pay tuition expenses at the University. The Financial Services Department has established procedures which assure fair and consistent treatment of all applicants.

Everglades University believes that the primary responsibility for educational costs rests with the student and his/her family. However, financial aid is available to meet the difference between a student's resources and his/her actual needs. Everglades University examines the total cost associated with attending the University including, but not limited to, tuition and fees, room and board, books, supplies, personal expenses and allowable travel expenses.

Everglades University uses the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA) to document and collect information used in determining a student's eligibility for financial aid. The information a student reports on the [Application](#) is confidential. [Applications](#) may be obtained online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Everglades University maintains a full-time Financial Services Department at each campus to meet student needs. Students are encouraged to make appointments with a Financial Services Administrator to ensure that they obtain the funding needed for their University investment. The United States Department of Education has determined that Everglades University is an institution eligible to participate in Federal Title IV financial aid programs.

Types of Financial Aid

Everglades University has the following institutional and federal aid programs available to students who qualify (subject to availability of funds). The amount of aid a student receives at Everglades University is based on the cost of attendance, the Expected Family Contribution (EFC), enrollment status (full time, 3/4 time, 1/2 time, 1/4 time) and the length of attendance within the academic year.

Grants

Grants are awarded to undergraduate students based on substantial financial need. Grants do not have to be repaid unless a student becomes ineligible. Students must maintain satisfactory academic progress as defined in the Everglades University Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy.

Federal Pell Grant:

A Federal Pell Grant is an award to assist needy undergraduate students in paying for their education. Pell Grants do not have to be repaid unless a student becomes ineligible. Students who have achieved a bachelor's degree are not eligible for a Federal Pell Grant. Eligibility for a Federal Pell Grant is based on several factors. The student completes a [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA) and this generates an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) number. Using the EFC number and other criteria, the amount of award is determined.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG):

The Federal SEOG provides additional grant assistance to undergraduate students. Funds are limited and priority is given to Pell eligible students with exceptional financial need. Federal SEOG awards do not have to be repaid unless a student becomes ineligible. Students with a bachelor's degree are not eligible for Federal SEOG.

Florida Student Assistance Grant (FSAG):

The FSAG program is funded by the State of Florida and granted to needy students enrolled in bachelor degree or associate degree programs. To be considered for an FSAG Grant, applicants must meet Florida's residency requirements for receipt of state student financial aid and must enroll for a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester. They must complete a [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) which must be processed and contain a valid Expected Family Contribution (EFC) by the cutoff date set by the university for each of the Fall terms.

The Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG Grant):

The ACG Grant is a new grant program for first time college students who will be attending Everglades University who have not attended college before, and who have graduated from high school in 2005 or 2006. Eligibility for the ACG Grant is based on several factors. The student must first complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA) which must be processed. The student must be a U.S. Citizen; a Federal Pell Grant recipient; enrolled full-time in a degree program; enrolled in the first or second academic year of his/her

program of study; completed a rigorous secondary school program of study (after January 1, 2006, if a first year student, and after January 1, 2005, if a second year student); if a first year student, not have been previously enrolled in an undergraduate program; and if a second year student, have at least a 3.0 grade point average for the first academic year.

Loans

Everglades University offers a variety of low interest loans that enable students to meet their educational costs. Educational loans **MUST BE PAID BACK**. Interest charges vary with the type of loan, and a minimum monthly payment may be required.

Federal Direct Stafford Student Loans:

Everglades University was selected by the United States Department of Education to participate in the Federal Direct Student Loan Program. A Federal Direct Student Loan eliminates the lenders and guarantee agencies. Everglades University processes a student's application in-house, and the loan is funded directly by the U.S. Department of Education. The Federal Direct Student Loans are low interest loans.

Federal Family Education Loans (Stafford Student Loans):

This loan is similar to the Direct Loan. The loans are low interest with a variable interest rate. The lender is a bank or other lending Institutions that participates in the FFEL program. Some of the aspects of the application process and the available repayment plans are different than the Federal Direct Loan Program.

Subsidized Stafford Loan:

Both the Federal Direct Loan Program and the Federal Family Education Loan Program repayment begin six (6) months after a student drops below half time status. The loan has a variable interest rate that is determined each year by the government. If an undergraduate student qualifies, the maximum amount of a Subsidized Stafford Loan is \$3,500 for first-year students, \$4,500 for second-year students and \$5,500 for third-year and fourth-year students. If a graduate student qualifies, the maximum amount of a Subsidized Stafford Loan is \$8,500.

Unsubsidized Stafford Loan:

Both the Federal Direct Loan Program and the Federal Family Education Loan Program has a low variable interest rate that is determined each year by the government. If an undergraduate student qualifies, the maximum amount of an Unsubsidized Stafford Loan is \$6,000 for first and second year students, \$7,000 for third and fourth year students. If a graduate student qualifies, the maximum amount of a Unsubsidized Stafford Loan is \$12,000.

Unsubsidized loans are non-need based loans to students who meet the qualifications. The loan is based on the cost of attendance less any other financial aid a student receives. The interest is charged through the life of the loan.

Federal Direct and FFEL Plus Loans:

The Federal PLUS Loan (FPLUS) programs provide non-need based loans to parents of dependent students. The PLUS loan eligibility is based on the cost of attendance less any other financial aid a student receives. The repayment on a Federal PLUS begins within (60) sixty days after the final loan disbursement. These loans have low variable interest rate that is determined each year by the government.

Federal Perkins Loan (formerly NDSL):

The Federal Perkins Loan, formerly called the National Direct Student Loan, is a fixed 5% interest loan that assists needy undergraduate and graduate students in paying their educational costs. Funds are limited and eligibility is based on financial need. Repayment begins nine months from a student's last date of attendance.

Federal Work Study (FWS):

The Federal Work Study program gives part-time employment to undergraduate and graduate students who need income to help meet the costs of postsecondary education. When available, Everglades University provides part-time jobs for needy students through the FWS program. Generally, students work fifteen to twenty hours per week. Part of this program is community service programs.



“Everglades University gave me the opportunity to fulfill my dream of completing my bachelor's degree. As a working airline pilot trying to get on with a major carrier, I seemed to be in an impossible situation until I learned about Everglades.”

—Richard Trauernicht
2006 Graduate, Sarasota Campus

Scholarships

- Everglades University Academic Scholarship
- Everglades University Financial Scholarship
- Everglades University Graduate Scholarship
- Keiser University Graduate Scholarship
- Keiser Career College Graduate Scholarship
- Florida Association of Postsecondary Schools and Colleges Scholarship
- Career College Association Scholarship
- Accredited Massage School Graduate Scholarship
- Florida Bright Future Scholarship
- Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) Scholarship
- Active Military Scholarship

Information and applications for these scholarships are available through the Financial Services Department.

Student Eligibility Requirements

Any applicant for admission who indicates on his/her application that financial assistance is needed for education must complete a [Free Application for Federal Aid](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Federal Financial Aid is not available to international students unless they are eligible non-citizens. Eligible non-citizens must provide current documentation of immigration status prior to applying for financial aid.

To be eligible to receive most need-based aid, a student must meet the following requirements:

- Show financial need.
- Be enrolled in an eligible degree program.
- Have a high school diploma or a GED.
- Be a U.S. Citizen or eligible non-citizen.
- Have a valid Social Security Number.
- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress.
- Comply with requirements of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act.
- Not be in default on a Federal Perkins Loan (or National Direct Student Loan), Federal Stafford Loan or Federal Plus Loan.
- Not owe a refund on a Federal Pell Grant or Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG).

- Agree to use any Federal student aid received solely for educational purposes.
- Be enrolled at least half-time (for most programs).
- Sign a Statement of Educational Purpose/Certification on refunds and default
- Sign a statement of updated information certifying that certain items on their Institutional Student Information Record are correct.
- Sign a Statement of Registration Status if required to register with the Selective Service.

Financial Aid Procedure

Prospective Everglades University students must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid form. Many funds are limited and are awarded on a first-come-first-serve basis to those students who have the greatest need. Students must complete a FASFA and an appointment must be made with the Financial Services Department.

During a student's financial aid interview, a computerized need analysis will be completed. This need analysis indicates what the amount a family is expected to contribute to the educational cost, as well as the amount of financial aid the student can expect to receive. After the Free Application for Federal Student Aid is processed, the University receives an electronic Institutional Student Information Report (ISIR) and the student receives a Student Aid Report (SAR) from the U.S. Department of Education within 30 days.

If verification is required, requested documentation must be produced by student, spouse, and/or parent (whichever is applicable). The Financial Services Department will explain the verification procedure if the situation arises.

The Financial Services Administrator submits the relevant paperwork to the appropriate lenders/agencies and follow up to ensure that the financial aid file is complete and accurate. Financial Services is the liaison between the lenders/servicing agencies and the student. The Director of Financial Services works to see that students are aware of their responsibilities, that student tuition is paid, that the lender obtains the correct paperwork, and that all documents are executed and tracked correctly.

Financial Services is dedicated to helping the students understand and comply with the forms and paperwork that the financial aid application process entails. Students must re-apply for financial assistance each year.

NOTE: A student's financial aid is solely the responsibility of the student. Each student is responsible for correctly completing all applications and processing paperwork in a timely manner. If student aid is not received by the University while the student is in school, the student is responsible for all tuition and fees due to the University.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Student Rights

All Everglades University students have the right to:

- Know when they will receive their financial aid.
- A copy of the documents describing the University accreditation or licensing.
- Information about its programs, instructional and other physical facilities, and faculty.
- Information relating to job placement rates.
- Information concerning the cost of attendance.
- Information on the refund policy for students who withdraw.
- Information about Federal Work-Study jobs:
 - What kind of job it is
 - What hours a student must work
 - What job duties are
 - What the rate of pay is
 - How and when payroll is issued
- Reconsideration of their aid package if the student believes a mistake has been made or if enrollment or financial circumstances have changed.
- Information on how the University determines whether a student is making satisfactory progress, and if not, the nature of the procedures.
- Information concerning special facilities and services that are available under the Americans with

Disabilities Act.

- Information as to what financial assistance is available, including information on all federal, state, local, private, and institutional financial aid programs.
- Information as to who Financial Services personnel are, where they are located, and how to contact them.
- Information concerning the procedures and deadlines for submitting applications for each available financial aid program.
- Information concerning how financial aid recipients are selected by the different programs.
- Information concerning how a student's financial aid eligibility is determined.
- Information on how much of the financial need, as determined by the University, has been met.
- Information concerning each type and amount of assistance in each student's financial aid package.
- Information concerning the interest rate on any student loan a student has, the total amount which must be repaid, the length of time to repay, when repayment must begin, and what cancellation or deferment (postponement) provisions apply.
- Know their academic advisor.
- Information concerning the University's policies regarding attendance, dress, tardiness, and testing.
- Fair, equal non-discriminatory treatment from all University personnel.
- Access to their student records.
- Freedom of academic expression.

Student Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of each Everglades University student to:

- Abide by the University student code of conduct.
- Read, understand, and keep copies of all forms they are given.
- Review and consider all information about the University's program prior to enrollment.
- Pay special attention to the Free Application for Student Financial Aid, complete it accurately, and submit it on time to the right place. (Errors can delay or prevent receiving aid).
- Know and meet all the deadlines for applying or reapplying for aid.
- Provide all documentation, corrections, and/or new information requested by either the Financial Aid Department or the agency to which the application was submitted.
- Notify the University of any information that has changed since the student's initial application for financial aid.
- Repay all student loans.
- Complete an entrance and exit interview if the student has a Federal Perkins Loan, Federal Stafford Loan or Federal PLUS loan, or Unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loan.
- Notify the University and lender (if student has a loan) of any changes in the student's name, address, or attendance status (half-time, three quarter-time, or full-time).
- Satisfactorily perform the work agreed upon in a Federal College Work-Study Program, if the student has been granted one.
- Understand the University's refund policy which is clearly stated on the enrollment agreement and in this catalog.
- Read the contents of the Application for Admission carefully.
- Purchase or otherwise furnish books and supplies.
- Maintain University property in a manner that does not deface, destroy or harm it.
- Return library books in a timely manner and pay any fines that may be imposed.
- Obtain required educational and financial clearances prior to graduation.
- Comply with all parking regulations.