

## **Financial Assistance**

Laurus College participates in several Federal Student Financial Aid programs and offers payment plans to assist in meeting the education financing needs of our students and their parents. Laurus College also participates in Veteran's Administration programs. Laurus College will assist each student in determining the best funding option based on the student's eligibility. The college offers individual financial planning sessions for each student and family.

### **Federal Student Financial Aid**

Laurus College participates in the Federal Subsidized and Unsubsidized Direct Loans, Federal Parent PLUS Loans, Federal Pell Grants (Pell), FSEOG, and Federal Work Study (FWS).

To apply, students and parents must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at <https://fafsa.ed.gov/> and all other institutional application requirements. To be eligible for federal student aid the student must be enrolled in an eligible program, have a high school diploma or equivalent, maintain satisfactory academic progress, be enrolled at least one course per term, have no drug convictions, be either a US citizen or eligible noncitizen, cannot be in default or have a grant overpayment, and male students need to be registered for selective service.

The outcome of the FAFSA application is used to determine what types of federal funding the student and parent qualify for and the amount of these awards. After determining the amount of awards the student and parent qualify for, Laurus will inform the student and parent of their eligibility. At this point, the student and parent can decide which program they wish to participate in and how much to borrow.

Funds from each of the federal financial aid programs, except for FWS, are disbursed evenly over the student's academic year and are based on the student's enrollment each quarter. The total award for the academic year is divided by the three quarters, with a disbursement each quarter. The student will be notified when each loan disbursement is made (parent will be notified of PLUS loan disbursement) and will be given the option to cancel or alter the disbursement amount within a specific period of time.

Students should contact a financial aid advisor at the college (805-267-1690) for assistance with the application process. Please see the Laurus College website at <http://www.lauruscollege.edu/student-services/financial-aid/> for further consumer information about federal financial aid programs.

### **Federal Pell Grant**

Federal Pell Grants are usually awarded only to undergraduate students who have not earned a bachelor's or a professional degree. This grant does not have to be repaid under normal circumstances. Amounts can change yearly. For the 2017–18 award year (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018), awards range from \$105 to \$5,815. The amount you qualify for will depend on:

- Program of study
- Financial need (results of the FAFSA)
- Cost of attendance
- Number of credits per quarter
- Plans to attend school for a full academic year or less

You may not receive Federal Pell Grant funds from more than one school at a time or for longer than six full award years.

## **FSEOG**

FSEOG is a grant designed to help students with high financial need cover tuition and other educational costs. The school's yearly FSEOG authorization from ED is allocated throughout the award year for each class start. FSEOG is awarded to Pell eligible students and from lowest EFC first. FSEOG can be awarded to non-Pell eligible students, but only after all Pell eligible students have been awarded first in each group. The minimum FSEOG award is \$100 and the maximum is \$4,000 per award year.

## **Federal Work Study**

This program provides part-time employment for undergraduate students with financial need, allowing them to earn money to help pay educational expenses. The FWS program provides the majority of the funding for the student's pay and the employer pays the remaining portion. The program encourages community service work and work related to the student's program of study. To apply, contact the Financial Aid Office for information on the available jobs and the application process.

## **Federal Direct Subsidized Stafford Loan**

The Subsidized Stafford loan program is available from the U.S. Department of Education for undergraduate students and eligibility is based upon the student's need (outcome of the FAFSA and cost of attendance) and program length. There is no credit check for this loan. The U.S. Department of Education pays the interest or subsidizes the loan while the student is in school at least half-time, for the first six months after leaving school (referred to as a grace period), and during a period of deferment (a postponement of loan payments). Loan amounts may be up to \$3,500 for a first year student and \$4,500 for a second year student.

## **Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan**

These loans are available from the U.S. Department of Education for undergraduate and graduate students and there is no requirement to demonstrate financial need. Eligibility is based upon cost of attendance, other financial aid awards that the student receives, and dependency status. There is no credit check for this loan. The student is responsible for paying the interest on a Direct Unsubsidized Loan during all periods. Loans may be up to \$6,000 for a first or second year independent student or for a first or second year dependent student whose parent(s) do not

qualify for a Parent (PLUS) Loan. The award may be up to \$2,000 per year for all other dependent students.

### **Federal Direct PLUS Loan**

PLUS loans are federal loans available from the U.S. Department of Education for parents of dependent, undergraduate students to help pay educational expenses. The borrower must not have an adverse credit history. The maximum loan amount is the student's cost of attendance minus any other financial aid awards received.

### **Direct Loan Application, Rights and Responsibilities, and Repayment**

The first step in applying for a loan is by completing a FAFSA. The terms and conditions of the loan are contained in the Master Promissory Note which, which is provided and signed electronically. Both the Stafford loan and PLUS loan programs have origination fees of 1.069% and 4.264%, respectively, that are charged by the U.S. Department of Education and are paid from the loan proceeds before they are disbursed. The loans that are actually disbursed will be less than what you have borrowed by these percentages of the loan amount.

Students obtaining a federal loan for financial assistance will be obligated to repay any amount of money received from the loan, as well as all interest incurred during the loan period. Stafford loan repayment begins 6 months after the student leaves school, PLUS loan repayment begins after the loan is fully disbursed, while the student is still in school. The standard repayment term for Direct Loans is ten (10) years. The estimated monthly payment for a loan of \$10,000 at the current interest rate of 4.45% is approximately \$103 per month for 120 months. Modified repayment plans, deferments, and forbearances are available to borrowers who qualify. See <https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/index.action> for more information, to complete your Master Promissory Note, and complete the required loan counseling.

### **Alternative Loans**

Students who have limited financial aid assistance may apply for other alternative educational loans to cover their tuition and fees through a private lender of their choice.

### **VA Veterans Administration**

Veterans Administration (VA) educational benefits may be available to those individuals who qualify. Information regarding VA educational benefits is available online at <http://www.finaid.org/military/veterans.phtml>.

### **Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and other Agency Funding**

Some students may qualify for assistance through WIA or other rehabilitation agencies. The student must provide information to the College regarding this type of tuition and fees assistance.

## **Scholarships and other Grants**

Students may have a scholarship or grant they have received or earned from a sponsoring entity. The student must provide information to the College regarding this assistance.

## **Payment Plans**

Students are responsible for all unpaid program costs and fees related to their enrollment, whether or not they are eligible for student financial aid. The College payment plan is designed for students who:

- are not eligible for financial aid;
- have a balance on their tuition and fees not covered by their financial aid award; or
- do not have other tuition funding resources.

In addition, students may also choose to make payments towards their tuition and fees directly to the College in place of utilizing available financial aid funds.

All payment plans must be set up, agreed to by the student, and approved by the College.

Scheduled tuition payments are due the first of every month. Payments must be made consistently and on time, otherwise, late payment penalties may be assessed.