



Congratulations, and welcome to Benedictine University! The Office of Financial Aid is pleased to provide the following information about your eligibility for the academic year. Your financial aid offer notification lists the type(s) of assistance and total amount of funding you are eligible to receive for the academic year.

Review this information and your financial aid offer notification carefully. Be sure to regularly check your Benedictine email account for important messages from the Office of Financial Aid.

Your financial aid offer is based on a full-time enrollment; the expectation is that you will be enrolled in 6 credit hours in each semester. If you enroll in less than 6 credit hours per semester, alter the pattern of your enrollment or decide to withdraw from a class, it is your responsibility to notify the Office of Financial Aid.

### **Cost of Attendance**

On your Financial Aid Offer notification, you will see a section entitled Estimated Cost of Attendance (COA). Estimated Cost of Attendance includes averages of direct and indirect expenses for an academic year. The University uses estimated costs along with the information received from your FAFSA to determine your eligibility for federal student loan programs.

Direct costs are items, such as tuition cost and student service fees are charged directly by Benedictine. These items will appear on your student account invoice.

Indirect costs such as books and supplies, off-campus housing, transportation, and personal expenses have been estimated based on average living expenses for the Chicagoland area. Indirect costs are not payable to Benedictine and will not appear on your student account invoice.

### **Financial Aid Programs**

The **Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans** is a low interest loans with a fixed interest rate for the life of the loan. These loans are not based on financial need. You are responsible for paying the interest from the date the loan is disbursed; however, you may choose to defer these payments while you are in school. Keep in mind that a mandatory loan origination fee will be deducted from each loan disbursement.

To be eligible to receive these loans, you must be a degree-seeking student and maintain at least half-time enrollment in a graduate program. After you graduate, leave school, or drop below half-time enrollment, you will have a six-month grace period before you are required to begin repayment.

The **Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan Program** is a credit-based loan with a fixed interest rate available to approved graduate students. If approved, graduate students may borrow up to their cost of attendance minus any other financial aid resources. You are responsible for paying the interest from the date the loan is disbursed; however, you may choose to defer these payments while you are in school. Keep in mind that a mandatory loan origination fee will be deducted from each loan disbursement.

It is recommended that students first borrow their full eligibility of the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan before applying for the Federal Direct Graduate PLUS loan.



Federal Direct loans are placed in an offered status and require the student to take additional steps for those loan funds to be disbursed. If you are a first-time **Federal Direct Loan** borrower at Benedictine, you must complete the following:

- Complete a [Master Promissory Note \(MPN\)](#)
- Complete [Loan Entrance Counseling](#)

If you are a **Federal Direct Graduate PLUS** borrower at Benedictine, you must complete the following:

- [Graduate PLUS Loan Request](#)– The PLUS Request gives authorization for a credit check and allows the student to indicate the requested loan amount. This application must be completed for each aid year you wish to receive a Federal Graduate PLUS loan funds.
- [Federal Direct Graduate PLUS MPN](#)
- [Federal Graduate PLUS Loan Entrance Counseling](#)

The federal government requires you to complete Entrance Counseling and the Master Promissory Note to ensure that you understand the financial responsibilities and obligations you are accepting. Further information regarding these requirements can be found [here](#).

### **Accept or adjust your offer aid**

If you are accepting your awards as stated on the offer notification, there is no need to return the notification letter to the Office of Financial Aid.

However, if you wish to decline a financial aid offer or reduce the amount of the loan amount, you must sign and return the offer notification within fourteen (14) days of its receipt.

Complete the following steps on your offer notification.

- To DECLINE an offer, circle the "D" next to the offer amount(s).
- To REDUCE an offer, make a change next to the offer amount.
- Make sure to initial all changes.

If you receive additional financial assistance from an external source (e.g. employer reimbursement, Chamber of Commerce discount, private scholarships, etc.) it must be reported on a copy of your Offer Notification and returned to the Office of Financial Aid.

Return the letter to our office

- via email: [financialaid@ben.edu](mailto:financialaid@ben.edu) (from your BenU email);
- fax: 630-829-6101;
- mail to: Office of Financial Aid, Lownik Hall, 5700 College Road, Lisle, IL 60565

### **Enrollment Requirements**

You must be enrollment in a degree-seeking program to be eligible for federal direct student loans. Your financial aid offer is based on continuously enrollment and maintain at least half-time enrollment each semester.

Financial Aid's enrollment definition differs from the Registrar's standard as described below. Financial aid is used to determine loan eligibility, loan deferments, and veterans' education benefits certification. The Registrar standard is used for all other reporting.



Enrollment Status	Financial Aid	Registrar
Half-time	3 semester hours	4.5 semester hours
Full-time	6 semester hours	9 semester hours

### Disbursement of funds

Your federal student loan(s) will post and disburse to your student's account following the add/drop period for each session, as long you have a valid MPN and Entrance Counseling with the federal government. You may review your account activity by accessing [MyBenU](#).

All loan proceeds are disbursed equally over the number of semesters you are awarded each aid year. Student loan funds are sent to Benedictine University's Business Office via Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT). A notification of each disbursement will be sent to your BenU email address.

The following example is based on a student enrolled in 6 semester hours each session starting in the Summer Term. If enrollment varies, or your start term is not the summer term, your awarding will look different than what is presented below.

### Example of Loan Disbursement for Online Semester MS Nursing Program

Financial Aid Offer	Summer Semester		Fall Semester		Spring Semester		Total
	Session 5	Session 6	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	
	3 hours	3 hours	3 hours	3 hours	3 hours	3 hours	
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan	\$3,417	\$3,417	\$3,417	\$3,417	\$3,416	\$3,416	\$20,500
Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan							Up to cost of attendance minus other aid

All Federal Direct loans are subject to an origination fee. The fee will be deducted from the amount you are borrowing before each disbursement is credited to your account.

- If you withdraw from class or are out of attendance for more than 30 calendar days, loan funds will be returned to the federal government, and all subsequent disbursements cancelled.
- If you received a refund check prior to withdrawing from class, an adjustment may be made to your loan. This may result in a balance on your student account, preventing you from registering for your next class.

### Financial Aid Communication

Review your Benedictine email account for important messages and updates from the Office of Financial Aid. All communication regarding your financial aid should be sent from your Benedictine University email and include your student ID number.

### Student Accounts Information

The Business Office will bill your tuition after you enroll in classes for any given term. You can view your charges online through your [MyBenU](#) account. Current tuition rates are available at [Tuition and Fees](#).



If your loan disbursement is in excess of your charges, the Business Office will process your refund. All students must choose how they would like to receive their refund at [Refund Selection](#) process takes 10 to 14 days **after** your loan disbursement is reviewed and released by the Office of Financial Aid. For more information about refunds, please visit [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

If your charges exceed your financial aid eligibility, or you choose not to use financial aid, the Business Office offers various payment options. You can review these options [Payment Options](#).

### **Loan Deferment**

If you have previous student loans and are currently enrolled in an eligible degree-seeking program, you may be eligible for a deferment. A deferment allows you to temporarily postpone your student loan payments for a certain period of time. Your deferment eligibility depends on the date your student loan was first disbursed. Your current enrollment is updated with the National Student Loan Clearinghouse after the start of each term. You can check to see if your loans have been deferred at [NSLDS Student Access](#). Continue to make student loan payments until your loans are listed as deferred.

### **Satisfactory Academic Progress**

The Office of Financial Aid will review your academic progress at the end of the academic year to determine if you are meeting the academic progress standards for continued financial aid eligibility. You may review the Satisfactory Academic Progress policy by visiting [Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy](#).