FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY Q & A

What does the Financial Aid cost of attendance include?

Our cost of attendance budget includes average amounts for all expenses to attend Howard University. These figures are based on the average living expenses in the Washington DC metropolitan area.

I have a bachelors degree. Am I considered a graduate student?

Not necessarily; only a student officially admitted to a graduate program leading to a masters or doctorate degree is officially a graduate student.

I am not a full-time student this term; am I still eligible for Financial Aid?

You still may be eligible for certain types of aid, providing that you do not drop below half-time. You are not eligible to receive funds from the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, University Grants, or Perkins Loan. In addition, scholarships awarded to you based on full-time attendance may be reduced or completely cancelled.

I am not admitted to a degree or eligible certificate program, can I get aid?

No.

Are non-citizens eligible for Financial Aid?

A non-citizen who is in the U.S. as a permanent resident is eligible for federal student aid assistance. A non-citizen in the U.S. on a temporary visa is not eligible for federal aid but may be eligible for assistance through the University’s grants, scholarships, or employment programs.

I am admitted to a degree program at the University beginning in fall 2004. Can I receive Financial Aid for classes during the summer term 2004?

No, you must be officially admitted to a degree or certificate program in order to receive Financial Aid. If your admission is effective for the fall term, you will not be eligible before the fall term.
Why must I provide my parents’ information on the FAFSA?

A basic premise of Federal Student Financial Aid is that the family is responsible for educational expenses. Be sure to include yourself when entering your parents’ family size. Read the FAFSA instructions carefully to determine whether you are dependent or independent for aid purposes.

My (or my parents’) circumstances are going to change, do I enter what is true now or what will be true on the FAFSA?

Enter what is true now. Use 2003 Federal 1040 tax information. If you or your family has a significant decrease in income in 2004, or if a change occurs such as death or divorce, contact a Financial Aid Officer AFTER you receive your SAR from the Central Processor. We may adjust your award package.

My parents have not filed their tax return yet. Can they estimate their income?

Yes, they may use estimates, but the information must be corrected later to match the exact figures from the actual tax returns before aid is paid to you.

My parents are divorced, which parent should complete the FAFSA?

The parent you lived with most during the last 12 months should complete the FAFSA. If you did not live with either parent, or if you lived with each parent an equal amount of time, use the parent who provided the most support to you in the most recent calendar year.
What do I do if I made a mistake on the FAFSA and want to make corrections?

You should consult a Financial Aid Officer before making changes. Not all changes require resubmitting the SAR to the Central Processor.

I have a trust fund that I cannot touch until I am 21 years old. Do I report it on the FAFSA?

Yes, a trust fund must be reported because it represents your financial strength.

Is there any special funding for students in health professions programs?

Yes, Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, and Allied Health have special funds. You must include parental information on your FAFSA regardless of your dependency status to be considered for these grants, scholarships, and loans.

What happens if I increase my credit hours after the end of the drop/add period? Will I receive more aid?

No, your aid is based on your enrollment at the end of the drop/add period. Aid is not adjusted after that date.

I plan to attend summer term 2005. Can I use part of my 2004-2005 Financial Aid Award?

No, Summer 2005 is the last term of the 2004-2005 school year. You must complete a summer aid application.