Understanding Your Financial Aid

The Financial Aid Office
Financial Aid: The Basics

• What exactly is financial aid?
• How do I get financial aid?
• What will my financial aid cover?
  - Tuition and Fees
  - Books and Supplies
  - Room and Board
  - Personal Expenses
• How do I qualify for grants?
• My financial situation is different than what’s on my FAFSA—what should I do?
Scholarships

• How do I find more scholarships? Are there still some available?
• If my student gets an outside scholarship, will it affect my other aid?
• How will GV get the scholarship from my local/outside organizations?
• What if the scholarship doesn’t come in time for the payment deadline?
Loans

• What types of loans are available?
  - Subsidized
  - Unsubsidized
  - Perkins/Nursing
  - Parent PLUS
  - Private Loans

• How does my student get federal student loans?

• What happens if we can’t afford to borrow the Parent PLUS loan or our credit is denied?

• How can I make sure the loans get applied to my student’s account?

• When do we have to begin paying the loans back?
Student Employment

• What are the benefits of working on-campus versus off-campus?
• How do I find a job on-campus?
• When should my student start looking for on-campus jobs?
• What if we live far away from campus and cannot do an in-person interview until move-in week?
• Does my student have to have work-study to work on-campus?
Work-Study

- Why doesn’t my student qualify for work-study?
- Can a student use work-study to help pay tuition?
- What if my student doesn’t find a job and has work-study—do they have to repay it?
Reminders

• We use email to communicate
  • Students should begin using their GVSU Gmail account
  • After enrollment this will be the only email used to communicate with students
• Students must file a FAFSA *every year* to continue to be considered for financial aid
  • The 2017-2018 FAFSA will be available in October of 2016 and will use information from the 2015 tax year
  • The Michigan priority deadline is March 1
• Communicate with us regarding any unusual circumstances related to your finances
• Renewal criteria for each scholarship, grant, and other financial aid may differ

*We’re here to help!*
Contact Us

100 Student Services Building
(616) 331-3234 or (800) 748-0246
(616) 331-3180 (fax)
Website: www.gvsu.edu/financialaid
Email: finaid@gvsu.edu
Facebook: www.facebook.com/GVFAO
Twitter: @GVSUFinAid

Academic year: M-Th 8-6, Friday 8-5
Summer: M-F 8-5