FOR CONTINUING & PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

FINANCIAL AID SERVICES at the University of Massachusetts Amherst is committed to working with Continuing & Professional Education (CPE) students to provide the best possible information about available financial aid resources. During 2015−2016, more than 800 degree-seeking CPE students received financial aid. As a CPE student enrolled in a degree-granting program, including University Without Walls (UWW), Nursing, Bachelor of Business Administration, Bachelor of Science in Hospitality and Tourism Management, Bachelor of General Studies, and Associate Degree Program in Sustainable Food and Farming you are eligible to apply for financial aid. Financial aid funds are provided through federal, state, university, and private sources. This guide was created to help you understand the process of applying for financial aid as well as explain eligibility requirements, estimated costs, types of financial aid, and alternative options for financing your education. Please refer to the financial aid website, umass.edu/umfa for detailed information. For specific questions, we can be reached by phone at (413) 545-0801 or by emailing final00@final0.umass.edu.

HOW TO APPLY

Students applying for financial aid are considered for all programs for which they are eligible; including federal, state, and institutional aid programs. Eligibility for financial aid begins with filling the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

The FAFSA should be completed online at fafsa.gov each academic year. The university's priority filing date for CPE students is May 1 for maximum consideration of financial aid. You do not need to be admitted to the university before submitting the FAFSA. Please refer to the financial aid website for an online tutorial for help with completing the FAFSA. You will need your Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID to sign your application—this is a new process which replaces the FAFSA pin. For more information, go to umass.edu/umfa/news/create-your-fsa-id-now (parents of dependent students will also need their own FSA ID to sign the application). When completing the FAFSA, you will need UMass’s Federal School Code: 002221.

After you complete the FAFSA, a Student Aid Report (SAR) will be sent by email. Please review your SAR for accuracy and respond to requests within 30 days. The SAR will indicate whether you have been selected for verification. If your application is selected for verification by the U.S. Department of Education, we will request documents to verify the data submitted on your 2016−2017 FAFSA. Being selected for verification does not imply that you have provided false or incorrect information, however, verification may delay the processing of your financial aid award.

Other delays may include late filing of the FAFSA, submission errors such as incorrect name, date of birth, Social Security number, and/or omission of signature(s) on the FAFSA, as well as a mismatch of name and Social Security number on the admission application and/or omission of signature(s) on the financial aid application. Please check your To Do List in SPIRE early and often. (SPIRE is the university’s student information system.)

ELIGIBILITY

The information provided on the FAFSA is used by the federal processor to determine an Expected Family Contribution (EFC). This is an index used to determine your eligibility for all types of financial aid.* The EFC calculation is based on number in family, number in college, income, assets, and other factors. Applicants must meet the following key criteria to receive most types of financial aid:

• Be enrolled in a degree-granting program.
• Be a United States citizen, permanent resident, or eligible noncitizen as defined by the federal government.
• Be enrolled in at least six credit hours each semester (some forms of financial aid require full-time enrollment, 12 credits).
• Maintain satisfactory academic progress toward completion of your degree.
• Additional eligibility requirements may apply.

* Nursing post-bachelor students are only eligible for loans. See Chart of Annual Federal Direct Loan limits in this document and visit: umass.edu/umfa/continuing-ed/types-aid for a list of credit-based loan options.

ESTIMATED COSTS OF ATTENDANCE (COA)

This is the amount we estimate it should cost to attend Umass Amherst for one academic year. A student's eligibility for financial aid is not based on individual preferences and spending habits, but on the standard budget allowances developed by UMass Amherst. These costs have been developed as a guide to help anticipate educational expenses. COA includes billed expenses (charges that appear on your university bill) and non-billed expenses (costs of items such as books, supplies, transportation needs, and personal expenses). A typical academic COA for a CPE student taking six credits per semester with a credit cost of $385/credit and a $195/semester registration fee is as follows:

Course Fees $5,010.00
Room and Board $11,849.00
Educational Related Costs $1,900.00
Total Annual Estimated Costs $18,759.00

(Costs per credit vary by program.)

Course costs are initially based on enrollment of six credits per term. Financial aid may be adjusted to reflect the actual enrollment at the end of the add/drop period for each term. These are estimated 2016−2017 costs for room and board. Some students will spend more on room and board; others less, depending on individual lifestyles and circumstances or geographic differences in the cost of housing. Related costs are books and supplies, travel, and miscellaneous educational expenses. If you would like to increase your COA because your educational costs are greater than what is outlined above, complete an Appeal for a Cost of Attendance Form at umass.edu/umfa/forms/.
RECEIVING FINANCIAL AID
Students receive aid decisions beginning in mid-July and ongoing. You will receive an email award notification to your university email account when your award is available in SPIRE (spire.umass.edu). Review your award carefully and follow the instructions for finalizing your aid. You may also view your To Do List for documents required before financial aid can be finalized by logging on to SPIRE. If your financial circumstances have changed significantly since 2015 and the 2016-2017 FAFSA does not reflect some aspects of your financial situation such as job loss or change in family size, review and complete an Appeal for Special Circumstances form at umass.edu/umfa/forms.

Your award was determined in accordance with the laws, regulations, and appropriations of the U.S. Congress, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the University of Massachusetts Amherst. It is subject to adjustments or cancellation in the event of changes to these laws, funding, or your eligibility. Common reasons for adjustments or cancellations to financial aid awards are verification, appeals, enrollment status, loan limits or loan default, Federal Direct Loan cancellations or reduction you may request, and not meeting satisfactory academic progress.

TYPES OF AID
Financial aid funds come from three major sources: the federal government, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and from university resources. All financial aid programs are subject to change due to external factors. Awards include grants, scholarships, loans, and part-time campus employment. Additional information may be obtained by visiting umass.edu/umfa/scholarships. Students, depending on their level of eligibility, may receive a combination of aid in their financial aid award, which may include:

Federal Pell Grant
Federal Work-Study Program (upon request)
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant
University of Massachusetts Grants or Scholarships
Massachusetts State Scholarship Programs including: Financial Aid Services
Early Childhood Educators Scholarship and Paraprofessional Teacher Preparation Grant

Federal Direct Loans may be subsidized or unsubsidized. With subsidized loans, the U.S. Department of Education pays the interest while you are enrolled in college, and you must demonstrate financial need to receive these. With unsubsidized loans, interest accrues from the date the loan is disbursed, but payments may be deferred until you finish your degree. Unsubsidized loans are awarded regardless of family income or financial need. The current interest rate is fixed at 4.29 percent and there is a 1.073 percent origination fee retained by the federal government for all Federal Direct Loans. The interest rates and origination fee are subject to change.

First-time borrowers are required to complete a Direct Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN) and Direct Loan Entrance Counseling. To learn about your Federal Direct Loans and to complete your MPN, visit studentloans.gov. After signing these documents, funds will be disbursed to pay your university bill.

ANNUAL FEDERAL DIRECT LOAN LIMITS:

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<th>Dependent Students</th>
<th>Independent Students</th>
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<tr>
<td>First-Years (0–26 credits)</td>
<td>$5,500 ($3,500 subsidized)</td>
<td>$9,500 ($3,500 subsidized)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sophomores (27–56 credits)</td>
<td>$6,500 ($4,500 subsidized)</td>
<td>$10,500 ($4,500 subsidized)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Juniors/Seniors (57–120 credits)</td>
<td>$7,500 ($5,500 subsidized)</td>
<td>$12,500 ($5,500 subsidized)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maximum Cumulative Amount</td>
<td>$31,000 ($23,000 subsidized)</td>
<td>$57,500 ($32,000 subsidized)</td>
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ALTERNATIVE FINANCING OPTIONS
Degree-seeking students who have received a financial aid award and need additional aid to cover educational costs, or who do not qualify for financial aid, may apply for an alternative credit-based loan. UMass Amherst does not endorse any individual alternative lender; you should compare programs and choose a lender that best fits your needs. Loans offer different combinations of rates, terms, and benefits. Some loans require immediate repayment, and all loans are subject to credit approval. It is your responsibility to understand each loan program’s eligibility requirements and repayment terms. Students who are not in a degree-granting program may be eligible for a nondegree alternative loan. For information on alternative loan options, please visit the Financial Aid Services website at umass.edu/umfa/continuing-ed/types-addlloans.

Aid for Summer and Winter Terms
If you plan to take courses over the summer and you are a returning student, you may be eligible to receive financial aid to offset the costs. Financial aid programs for the summer are limited to Pell Grants, work-study, and Federal Direct Loans. Please refer to umass.edu/umfa/undergraduates/summer-aid for additional information and to download a Summer Financial Aid application. Alternative credit-based loans are also available for the summer and are the only form of financial aid available for winter term.

PAYING YOUR UNIVERSITY BILL
All university bills are sent to the student’s IT email account and are posted in the QuikPAY section of SPIRE. QuikPAY is the electronic system for students and authorized payers to view, print, and/or make online payments. To access QuikPAY, go to your Student Center in SPIRE and select “View/Pay Bill.” For more information about QuikPAY and tuition charges, please visit the Bursar’s website at umass.edu/bursar.

The university bills students by semester. For undergraduate and CPE students, fall semester bills are due in August; spring semester bills are due in January. Graduate student bills are due after add/drop period, typically in October and March. If your financial aid award is finalized before your semester bill is sent to you, your financial aid will appear as an anticipated credit on the bill. The earliest your financial aid will be disbursed to your student account is 10 days prior to the start of the semester. Log into your SPIRE account at spire.umass.edu for up-to-date information on your university bill. Visit the Bursar’s Office website at umass.edu/bursar for additional information about your bill. You can call the Bursar’s Office at (413) 545-2388 or email them at bursar@admin.umass.edu.

The Bursar’s Office accepts payment by cash, check, eCheck, credit card, or debit card. To pay your university bill with a credit card or eCheck, go to QuikPAY by logging into your SPIRE account and click on “View/Pay Bill” under Finances. A nonrefundable service fee will be applied to all credit and debit card transactions.

CONTACT US
FINANCIAL AID SERVICES
245 Whitmore Administration Building
University of Massachusetts Amherst
181 Presidents Drive
Amherst, MA 01003-9313

umass.edu/umfa
Tel. (413) 545-0801
Fax (413) 545-1700
email: finaid@finaid.umass.edu