



Student Financial Aid Packaging 2020-21 Policy

Montgomery College believes that students should not be restricted from attending because of limited financial resources. The College established a financial aid program, consisting of grants, scholarships, loans, and student employment, to help eligible students pay for tuition, books, and other necessary items. The College's student financial aid packaging policy is based on this philosophy.

Montgomery College uses the results of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to determine eligibility for all need-based funds.

Gift Aid

The Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA) awards gift aid to students with financial need according to the restrictions of the award and the availability of funds.

Pell Grants

OSFA awards estimated Pell grants after student files have been reviewed and approved. We inform students that their awards will be prorated based on their semester enrollment. (See "Award Conditions.") Enrollment for each semester is determined based on the hours that are billed, eligible to receive a grade, and count in the program of study as of a published lock date for each part of term within a semester. Enrollment for summer Pell is locked at the end of the 100% refund period for each session within the summer semester. Lock dates for all terms are published on My MC.

SEOG

OSFA awards SEOG first to Pell-eligible students with "0" EFCs. When SEOG funds are expended during the initial fall packaging runs, we remove SEOG from packaging. We award funds that remain from students who do not enroll for fall to students enrolling for spring semester. We do not prorate the amount of SEOG for part-time enrollment, unless it is required due to an overaward. Less-than-half-time students may receive SEOG if they have remaining financial need. Often, LHT students do not have sufficient financial need for SEOG awards.

The minimum SEOG awarded is \$200 per academic year. The maximum is \$1,000 per academic year. In order to maintain a semester SEOG award, students must stay enrolled in at least one class past the 6% date (MC last date for refund) for the classes in which they registered. If students withdraw from all classes prior to their 6% dates, SEOG will be cancelled for that semester.

MC serves large numbers of part-time and independent students, and a significant amount of SEOG is awarded to this population.

Board of Trustees Grant

This is an institutional grant awarded to students with a cumulative 2.0 grade point average at MC. OSFA awards the funds to students who demonstrate financial need. OSFA screens recipients' GPAs and removes awards if students do not have the minimum required GPA.

The minimum awarded BOT grant is \$200 per academic year. The maximum awarded grant is \$1,500. Exceptions to the limits are determined by the Director. Less than Half-Time students may receive BOT grants if they have sufficient financial need. The amount of grant is not prorated for part-time enrollment, except for LHT students. Grants may be adjusted due to overawards of financial aid. The minimum and maximum grant amounts may be changed at the discretion of the financial aid staff due to the student's special circumstances.

Self-help Aid

Federal Work Study

OSFA awards Federal Work Study (FWS) to students who demonstrate financial need. OSFA awards FWS funds first to, eligible, returning students who have initiated a request to continue their employment. Other students are awarded based on their request to work, eligibility and available funds. All students are informed about the FWS program and how to search for a job on their award notification. The maximum FWS award is approximately \$5844. The rate of pay is adjusted to stay consistent with state and county minimum wage requirements. For the 2020-21 award year the estimated wage is \$13 per hour fall 20, \$14 per hour spring 21. Every attempt is made to place students in a job relating to their majors. Students are also placed in off-campus community service jobs with nonprofit agencies.

Federal Direct Loans

Montgomery College packages the maximum amount of Federal Direct Loan in the initial financial aid award notification as an offered amount, to notify students that loans are available. To receive their loans, student must accept their loans on line. Students must complete an on-line student loan entrance interview. Students receiving their first loan certified by Montgomery College are encouraged to complete the Direct Stafford Loan Request Form and complete a financial literacy session prior to completing the loan process. The Student Loan Team processes accepted loans after the student's financial aid file is verified, other aid had been awarded, and eligibility for loans has been determined. The six hours required for loan eligibility are determined at both certification and disbursement, based on the student's current and or completed hours in their program of study. Disbursement is the based on the earliest class start date that six hours of registration can be verified.

Revised August 2020