

## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET

The following information describes financial aid programs and application procedures for renewal of financial aid. For further details, please feel free to contact the Student Financial Center, at (518) 442-3202, or visit our website at [www.albany.edu/studentservices](http://www.albany.edu/studentservices).

### Federal Aid Programs

**Federal Pell Grant** – This federal grant is available to students who have demonstrated the highest calculated need. Fall and spring awards will generally range between \$555 and \$5550 for full-time study. The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) calculated from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) determines this award.

**Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)** - This federal grant is awarded to Federal Pell Grant recipients who have demonstrated the highest calculated need. Funding is limited with priority consideration given to those who meet recommended filing dates.

**Federal Perkins Loan** – This is a low-interest (5 percent) loan for undergraduate students based on demonstrated financial need and available funding. The Perkins Loan is interest free while attending school. Repayment begins 9 months after enrollment falls below half time.

**Federal Work Study** – Work-Study awards are offered to continuing students who worked under the Federal Work-Study Program in the prior academic year and earned a minimum of \$700. Students must also meet income eligibility criteria and recommended application filing date. Academic year awards are in the amount of \$1600. If you have been awarded Federal Work-Study and accept your award, you may use the Work-Study Employment Website to apply for a job online. Available jobs will be posted on the Work-Study Website in early August.

**Federal Direct Stafford Loan (Subsidized and Unsubsidized)** - These are non-credit based, low-interest loans available for a student's educational expenses. The award for a first year student is \$5,500 with no more than \$3,500 Subsidized. Second year students are eligible for up to \$6,500 with no more than \$4,500 Subsidized, and all other undergraduates are eligible for \$7,500 with no more than \$5,500 Subsidized. Additional Unsubsidized loan funds are available for borrowers who meet the Department of Education's standard for financial independence or who have a parent that does not qualify for a Federal Direct Parent PLUS loan.

A *Direct Subsidized Stafford Loan* is awarded on the basis of financial need. The federal government pays the interest on the loan during the time you are enrolled and during the period in which the loan is deferred. For loans disbursed after 7/01/11, the interest rate is fixed at 3.4%. To be eligible, you must represent financial need and be registered for a minimum of six credits in a degree seeking program.

A *Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan* is not awarded on the basis of financial need. You are responsible for all interest that accrues on the loan from the time of disbursement through repayment of the loan. Currently the interest is fixed at 6.8%. Interest accrued on a Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan can be paid at any time by the borrower while in school or during a period of deferment or forbearance to help lower interest capitalization and monthly payments. This loan is designed for students who do not qualify for Direct Subsidized Stafford Loans and those who need additional funds above the Direct Subsidized Stafford Loan amount. To be eligible, you must be registered for a minimum of six credits in a degree seeking program.

**Disbursements:** Direct Stafford Loan funds are released directly to the school in two or more disbursements via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). These funds are directly applied to the student's account.

**Processing Fees:** An origination fee of 1.0% with a 0.5% rebate amount will be deducted from the gross loan amount. A rebate amount is an up-front interest rebate given at the time of disbursement. The borrower must make all of the first twelve payments on time or the rebate amount will be added back to the principal balance of the loan.

## How to Apply for Direct Stafford Loans at UAlbany

### 1. File the FAFSA

The Direct Stafford Loan application process begins with the student filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Undergraduate students who fulfill award requirements ([http://www.albany.edu/financialaid/award\\_accept.shtml#requirements](http://www.albany.edu/financialaid/award_accept.shtml#requirements)) and have an official FAFSA on file will receive a UAlbany award email notification.

### 2. Accept the Stafford Loan Offer(s)

The UAlbany award email notification instructs students to accept, decline or reduce their Direct Stafford Loan offer(s) through the MyUAlbany Student portal. Step-by-step award acceptance instructions are available online at [www.albany.edu/financialaid/award\\_accept.shtml](http://www.albany.edu/financialaid/award_accept.shtml).

### 3. Complete Direct Stafford Loan Entrance Counseling and the Direct Stafford Loan Master Promissory Note

After accepting the Direct Stafford Loan offer(s), first time UAlbany Direct Stafford Loan borrowers will see messages under MyUAlbany "Important Items," instructing them to complete the Direct Stafford Loan Entrance Counseling Session and Direct Stafford Loan Master Promissory Note. Both processes are completed online at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov). UAlbany Undergraduate students only need to complete entrance counseling and the master promissory note once while attending UAlbany.

**In subsequent years of attendance, returning undergraduate borrowers initiate the borrowing process by filing the FAFSA and accepting their Direct Stafford Loan award offer(s) through MyUAlbany.**

**Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan** - Many families find the Direct PLUS as an attractive alternative to using lifetime savings and investments for educational expenses. To qualify for a Direct PLUS loan, parents cannot have an adverse credit history. The annual limits are the cost of attendance minus other financial aid.

Interest Rates: The interest rate will be fixed at 7.9%.

Processing Fees: An origination fee of 4.0% with 1.5% rebate amount will be deducted from the gross loan amount. A rebate amount is an up-front interest rebate given at the time of disbursement. The borrower must make all of the first twelve payments on time or the rebate amount will be added back to the principal balance of the loan.

If you wish to borrow the Direct PLUS loan you should follow the application instructions online under the "Parent Quick Links" section of the Financial Aid website at [www.albany.edu/financialaid](http://www.albany.edu/financialaid).

**Alternative Loan Program** - *Alternative loans* are credit based loans with variable interest rates. Student's who have not established a credit history, lack income, and/or have adverse credit may be required to apply with a co-borrower (having a co-borrowers may also reduce the interest rate and loan fees charged to the primary borrower). Interest generally accrues while the student is in school and payments on the loan may be deferred until the student ceases enrollment (depending upon the lender). Alternative loans should only be applied for **AFTER** all federal and state aid has been exhausted. The annual maximum loan amount is the cost of attendance minus other financial aid (loan minimums are set by the lender). Further information on alternative loans may be found under the "Student Loans" section of the Financial Aid website at [www.albany.edu/financialaid](http://www.albany.edu/financialaid).

If you have any questions, please contact the Student Financial Center at 518-442-3202.

**Please note that income verification, sibling enrollment verification, change in credit hours, or change in housing status may result in an adjustment to your financial aid.**  
**State Aid Programs**

**Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)** – Residents of New York State (NYS) may be eligible for a Tuition Assistance

Program award. This grant currently ranges between \$500 and \$4,995, depending upon the family's taxable income and state funding. Qualifying income is determined by the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation (NYSHESC). We have estimated the TAP grant for students who appear to be eligible, but NYSHESC notifies the student and the Office of Financial Aid of the official grant amounts. The University's undergraduate school code is 0895.

***Additional New York State Grant and Scholarship Programs***

For information on other NYS grant and scholarship programs, please visit the Financial Aid website at [www.albany.edu/financialaid](http://www.albany.edu/financialaid).

**University at Albany Scholarship Programs**

The Presidential, Frederick Douglass, College and Achievement scholarships are renewed by the Office of the Undergraduate Dean. Eligibility requirements and award amounts vary.