

Financial Aid

Understanding Your Award Letter

Making sense of your financial aid award letter can be difficult unless you carefully read all of the information that is provided with the award letter. You need to pay particular attention to the following items:

1. The award letter lists your financial aid eligibility for each semester. You will see amounts listed under "Fall Credits" and amounts listed under "Spring Credits". Determine the number of credits you plan to take each semester, then look under the corresponding column to determine your eligibility based on that particular number of credits.
2. If State Grant is listed on your award letter, the amount listed in each column is your eligibility at the highest number of credits in that column, either 15, 11, 8 or 5 credits. You must look at the "Minnesota State Grant Term Award Amounts by Credit Level" grid located further down the award letter to determine the exact amount of state grant eligibility based on the number of credits you plan on taking.
3. Federal Stafford loans and Federal PLUS loans require a separate loan application to be completed. Each application process is available on our financial aid website under "Financial Aid Links." Select the "Loans" link.
4. Work study eligibility allows you to apply for employment positions both on and off campus. Being eligible does not guarantee you a position, nor does being hired for a position guarantee that you will earn the amount listed on your award letter. You will want to check out the available jobs on our financial aid website under "Financial Aid Links." Select the "Employment-Work Study" link.

Click on ["Financial Aid Award Letter"](#) to see an example of the second page of the award letter.