

**Financial Aid Office**  
**Financial Aid Handbook**

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# Chapter 1

## Getting Started

*We are here to help!*

Mary Baldwin University offers financial assistance to help students and families afford and achieve the student's educational goals. The financial aid process is new to most families and at times may be confusing. The University's financial aid staff is here to help make the financial aid process as simple as possible. Contact information for the MBU Financial Aid staff is available [online](#) or in **Appendix 1** of this handbook.

### How to use this Handbook

This handbook corresponds with the traditional stages of the financial aid process – estimating aid, applying for aid, and renewing, maintaining, and repaying aid. It is available in its entirety or in sections. All forms referenced in this handbook are available [online](#) or you may contact our office to obtain a copy.

### Academic Year

The academic year is defined as two fifteen week semesters with an optional summer trailer.

### Eligibility for Financial Aid

Students must be admitted to a degree program or certain certificate programs. Institutional aid is awarded based on admissions criteria or departmental criteria. Students must meet federal aid eligibility criteria. In addition returning students must meet the financial aid satisfactory progress criteria. (See website [here](#) or Chapter 4 of this Handbook.)

### Timeline for Financial Aid

Ideally, students should finalize financial aid packages at least two months before the beginning of each academic year. While that does not mean last minute adjustments are impossible, college expenses are serious business and we designed these timelines to give families ample time to ask questions without feeling hurried.

### Students not Filing the FAFSA

We assume all enrolled students are financial aid applicants and will continue to contact you regarding missing information until you notify us that you are not filing the FAFSA. Please let us know by letter or email so that we may finalize any merit awards on your record so that they are accurately reflected on your statement of account. You may file the FAFSA after October 1<sup>st</sup> or when you decide you need these forms of assistance.

### Monthly Payment Plan Option

Whether or not you are filing a FAFSA, you and your parents may wish to take advantage of the monthly tuition payment plan option. There is a 10 month payment plan (MBUW students), 8 month plan (BALDWIN ONLINE AND ADULT PROGRAM/COE/MDCHS), or a 4 month plan that is offered just for the summer. For more details, see **Chapter 3 - Understanding Your Award Letter**.

## Alphabet Soup – Frequently Used Acronyms

BOAP	Baldwin Online and Adult Program
COA	Cost of Attendance budget includes direct costs plus other expenses
COE	College of Education
DL	William D. Ford Federal Loan Program
ED	U. S. Department of Education
EFC	Expected Family Contribution is the calculation made by the ED based on your FAFSA
FAFSA	Free Application for Federal Student Aid from the ED
FWS	Federal Work Study
FERPA	Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
FSA	Federal Student Aid
GRAD PLUS	Federal Graduate PLUS Loan
MBCW	Mary Baldwin College for Women
MDCHS	Murphy Deming College of Health Sciences
NSLDS	National Student Loan Data System <a href="http://www.nsls.ed.gov">www.nsls.ed.gov</a>
PLUS	Parent Loan for Undergraduate Student
RN2BSN	Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing program
SAR/ISIR	Student Aid Report or the student's results of FAFSA from the ED/ School's version of SAR from the ED
SCHEV	State Council of Higher Education in Virginia
TEACH	Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant Program
VTAG	Virginia Tuition Assistance Grant for Virginia residents

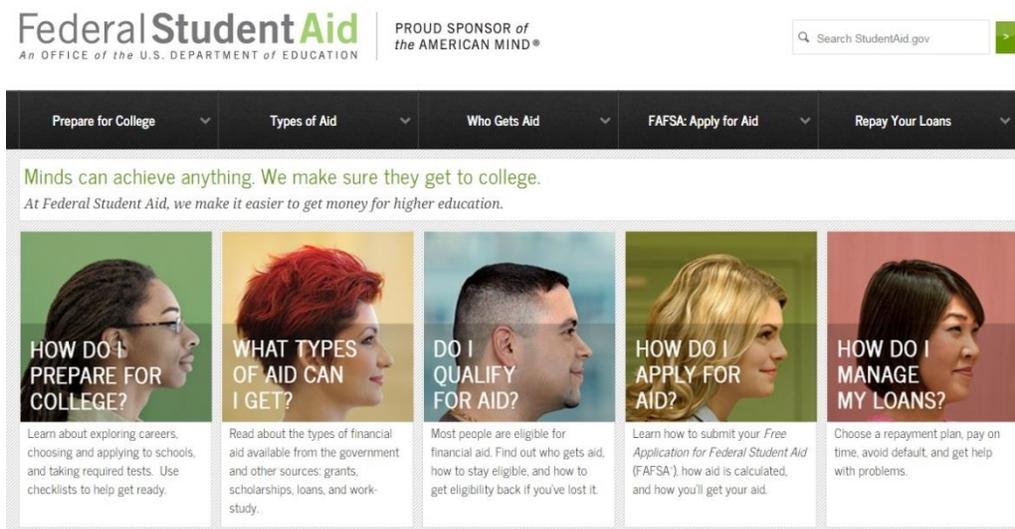
## Federal Student Aid ID

You can start the process for a more accurate estimate of financial aid by applying for your FSA ID. You can apply for your ID at <https://fsaid.ed.gov>. As with any banking information, you should keep your FSA ID in a secure place and not share it with others.

You will also use your FSA ID in completing your promissory note for a William D. Ford Direct Stafford Loan. Your parent can use their FSA ID in completing the parent Direct PLUS Loan. You will also need your FSA ID to access the National Student Loan Data System website ([www.nslds.ed.gov](http://www.nslds.ed.gov)) in order to track any federal student loans you receive while enrolled in school.

## Student Aid on the Web Portal

The Student Aid on the Web Portal is the official student portal of the U. S. Department of Education and a great resource for information about financial aid, scholarship search engines (not affiliated with ED), and other helpful information.



[www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov) is the Student Aid on the Web portal for the U. S. Department of Education. A wealth of information for students of all ages is accessible through this site.

## NEXT STEP

- ✓ Read Chapter 2, Applying for Aid.
- ✓ Begin gathering information for FAFSA
- ✓ Begin search for outside scholarships

# Chapter 2

## Applying for Financial Aid

*We are here to help!*

Each student admitted to a Mary Baldwin degree program or an eligible certificate program may be considered for financial aid. Students in all programs may complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Financial Aid.) The FAFSA process calculates a number called the expected family contribution. This determines undergraduate students' eligibility for federal need-based grants and loans. A processed FAFSA is also necessary for non-need federal student and parent loans.

**College for Women**-Students admitted to the College for Women are considered for institutional merit scholarships and grants based on their grades and standardized test scores. Eligibility for additional need-based aid from the university and federal need and non-need aid is determined with FAFSA information.

**Baldwin Online and Adult Program**-Students admitted to the Baldwin Online and Adult Program and who file a FAFSA are awarded federal financial aid for which they are eligible based on their FAFSA year in school and projected enrollment status and their remaining lifetime eligibility for federal financial aid programs.

**Graduate Programs**-Graduate students admitted to a program and who file a FAFSA are awarded federal unsubsidized student loans based on their projected enrollment status, annual and lifetime limits. They are also given information about grad-PLUS loans.

## Filing the FAFSA

*Where – online, beware of scams*

File the FAFSA for free at <http://www.fafsa.gov>. Never use dot-com sites because they may charge a fee. The university's federal Title IV Code 003723 should be entered in the college release section of the FAFSA in order for the Financial Aid Office to receive your results. The priority deadline for filing your FAFSA is March 1<sup>st</sup> for new students and April 15<sup>th</sup> for returning students.

### Whose information?

The application is in two parts—one part is to be completed by the student and the other part is to be completed by the parent. The following documents are necessary to file the FAFSA: your federal tax return, if filed; your parent(s) federal tax return if you are a dependent student; current checking and savings bank statements; and statements on other assets. However, the FAFSA may be completed with estimated income and tax information and later correct it with actual information. The FAFSA for 2017-18 and later will use “prior-prior” income and tax information, so the 2017-18 FAFSA will ask for 2015 income and taxes, the 2018-2019 FAFSA will ask for 2016 income and taxes, etc. The IRS data retrieval process that is offered on the financial sections of the FAFSA is unavailable until October 1, 2017 when the 2018-2019 FAFSA will be available for you to complete. If your parents are legally separated or divorced, complete the form using the parental information for the parent with whom you lived the most with in the preceding twelve months. If that parent has remarried, you must also include the income of your step-parent. In most cases, you must be

over 24 years of age to be considered an independent student. However, please review all questions listed on the FAFSA to determine your dependency status.

In order to electronically sign the FAFSA, you (and your parent if you are a dependent student) must apply for an FSA ID and password. This FSA ID will be required before the application can be processed. **Keep your FSA ID and password in a safe place; you will need it to file for aid for the next year, sign electronic master promissory notes, access federal aid records, or for other federal aid purposes in the future.**

### **Student Aid Report – where to find, how to review**

The Student Aid Report (SAR) is a document which reflects information the student has entered on the FAFSA application. The SAR is sent to the student in one of three ways: 1) students who give an email address, whether on a paper or electronic FAFSA application, will receive an email with a link to an online SAR that they can access by providing their SSN, date of birth, and first two letters of their last name, as well as their FAFSA ID; 2) students who do not give an email address and who apply with a paper application will receive a paper SAR; and 3) students who apply electronically and do not provide an email address will receive a SAR Acknowledgement, which has fewer and less detailed comments than the SAR and cannot be used for corrections as the SAR can. Students can log back in to [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov), select the appropriate academic year, and click on “Student Aid Report”. The student should carefully review the SAR to make sure all information is correct since it could affect the amount of financial aid they receive.

If there are major discrepancies in the student information or the student or parent failed to sign the FAFSA, the student will receive a rejected paper SAR. The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) cannot be calculated until all errors have been corrected and the proper signatures are provided. It is important to correct these errors as soon as possible so the student can be awarded their financial aid. The SAR will also inform the student if they have been selected for verification.

### **Corrections to your FAFSA**

In order to correct or update information on the Student Aid Report, the student must log into the [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) site under “Start Here” using their FSA ID and password. Select the appropriate academic year in which you need to make a correction. There are separate links to either make a correction or add or delete a school code. Be sure to also have a parent re-sign the FAFSA for any financial or substantive corrections you may make.

### **Not filing a FAFSA?**

If you are not completing the FAFSA, please inform the Financial Aid Office - [fnaid@marybaldwin.edu](mailto:fnaid@marybaldwin.edu) - so that we can finalize any academic scholarships for which you are eligible. Returning students who have not applied for need-based student aid or loans in prior years will continue to have merit-based aid applied to their financial aid award. However, at any point during the year you can notify our office that you are filing the FAFSA, and we will be happy to assist you with other types of aid at that time.

## Verification

The U. S. Department of Education selects one in three FAFSAs for a process known as verification. Being selected does not mean you have done anything wrong. It is simply an additional step to complete before your financial aid becomes official. Filing early with accurate information may reduce your chances of being selected.

If you are selected for verification, Mary Baldwin University is required by federal regulations to collect certain financial documents to ensure the accuracy of your FAFSA. You are required to complete and sign a [verification worksheet](#) (based on dependency) for the appropriate year and either link your financial information on your FAFSA to the IRS (using the DRT tool) or provide our office with 1) a tax return transcript for 2015 OR 2) a signed copy of your 2015 Federal 1040 forms. A tax return transcript can be requested at [irs.gov](http://irs.gov). Copies of W2s and/or 1099 forms are also required. If you have filed a tax extension, you must provide our office the with 4868 form, a copy of the IRS's approval of an extension, and copies of your W-2's. The Financial Aid Office will ask for other documents as needed.

Verification may change the results of your FAFSA and could impact your financial aid award. The priority deadline for completing verification in a timely manner to finalize the financial aid process is June 15<sup>th</sup>. Federal Title IV, state and college need-based financial aid, including student loans, cannot be released to your account until the verification process has been completed. If verification has not been completed by August 1<sup>st</sup>, other payment arrangements must be made to settle your student account. Once you have completed your verification other aid may be reinstated if funding is still available.

## Professional Judgment and Special Circumstances

Your family may have special circumstances that are not reflected on your FAFSA. The U. S. Department of Education gives us some latitude to apply professional judgment to some circumstances. In most instances, this would apply to divorce or legal separation, death or disability of a family member, unreimbursed medical expenses, involuntary unemployment, or excessive child care or elder care cost. Please contact the Financial Aid Office if you have circumstances that are not included with the FAFSA and provide details regarding your situation to the Director of Financial Aid in writing (or email) to determine whether a professional judgment can be granted. You will be advised if additional information or documentation is required. If a special circumstance request is submitted, the Financial Aid Office does NOT guarantee that a change would be made to your financial aid award package.

Are you unable to provide parent information? Complete and submit the FAFSA, then contact the financial aid office. If unusual circumstances exist that make it impossible for you to provide information about your parents on your FAFSA, you may request a review of your FAFSA dependency status. We will review the information you provide to determine if a dependency override is appropriate.

Unusual circumstances do **not** include:

1. Parents refuse to contribute to the student's education
2. Parents are unwilling to provide information on the FAFSA or for verification processes.
3. Parents do not claim the student for income tax purposes
4. Student demonstrates total self-sufficiency.

Unusual circumstances do include:

1. Abandonment
2. An abusive family environment that threatens the student's health or safety
3. Student is unable to locate her parents.

You will be asked to provide documentation of your circumstances from a third party such as a teacher, counselor, medical authority, member of the clergy, prison administrator, government agency or court. This may be in the form of a signed letter or an official document such as a court order.

## Applying for Outside Scholarships

### Where to Search

There are many resources that we encourage every student to explore thoroughly in search of scholarships from sources other than Mary Baldwin University. Such resources include:

- Your high school guidance office
- Civic clubs such as Lions, Rotary, Elks, Kiwanis among others
- Church affiliation
- Employers of parents or grandparents

### On-line Resources

All of the following are reputable online scholarship search engines. Once you receive your list of possible scholarships, you must then individually submit an application for each one.

- [Sallie Mae's College Answer](#)
- [EDU in Review](#)
- [United Negro College Fund](#)
- [FinAid](#)
- [Scholarship Experts](#)
- [Orphan Foundation of America - Foster Care to Success](#)
- [College Board-Big Future](#)

### Scholarship Application Tips

1. Review application requirements and carefully follow instructions, paying particular attention to deadlines;
2. If an essay is required, carefully craft your essay to respond to the topic and have it proofed multiple times by family, friends, and/or instructors;
3. Be sure to write your name on each part of your application;
4. Double check your application for completeness! Do not leave blanks. Unless otherwise directed, put all paperwork in one large envelope for mailing;

5. When searching for scholarships, apply first for those that match you and your interests but do not miss those that use words like "preference" as opposed to "required or must." Those that indicate preference may still offer the possibility of funding.
6. Do not pay for scholarship searches.

## Veteran's Benefits

Mary Baldwin University is proud to accept benefits for our veterans and their dependents. The Certifying Official for Mary Baldwin University is the Director of Financial Aid. The Director of Financial Aid will certify those benefits upon receipt of a Certificate of Eligibility letter from the U. S. Department of Veterans' Affairs indicating eligibility levels. Mary Baldwin University also processes aid benefits for students in the National Guard who receive tuition benefits as well. Please go to the Veterans Administration website at [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov) to apply for benefits. For information about how we process your benefits, please call the Financial Aid Office at 540-887-7022.

### VA Benefit Types:

- Chapter 30 (Montgomery GI Bill)
- Chapter 31 (Vocational Rehabilitation)
- Chapter 33 (Post - 9/11 GI Bill)
- Chapter 35 (Dependent's Education Assistance)
- Chapter 1606 (Reserve GI Bill)

You may find more information about VA benefits at [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov).

### Applying for Veteran's Benefits:

To apply for Veteran's Benefits you must apply directly through the [Veterans Administration](#). After you apply, you will receive your Certificate of Eligibility from the VA. You must provide a copy of your Certificate of Eligibility to the Financial Aid Office. VA Benefits can be used for both undergraduate and graduate course work. VA benefits, including housing benefits, count as resources in determining or revising eligibility for institutional financial aid. **If a student is living on campus and is eligible for VA housing benefits, the student is expected to use housing benefits to pay for room and board.**

If you are a transfer student, please complete [VA Form 22-1995](#). This form will provide the VA with your intent to transfer to Mary Baldwin University.

### VA Benefit Information:

Chapters 31, 33 and the Yellow Ribbon Program are the only chapters of the GI Bill that pay the college directly for tuition and fees. All of the other chapters pay the student monthly and in arrears. As a result, the student is responsible for paying all tuition and fees upfront.

### Yellow Ribbon Program:

The Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program (Yellow Ribbon Program) is a provision of the Post- 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008. The Post - 9/11 GI Bill will pay up to a specific

amount each academic year towards the cost of tuition. Under the Yellow Ribbon agreement, Mary Baldwin University will then contribute up to 50% of the remaining tuition expense, and the Department of Veterans Affairs will match that amount. This means that 100% of your tuition (TUITION ONLY- does not include room and board) will be paid at Mary Baldwin University! The Department of Veterans Affairs will also pay you a monthly housing allowance as well as a stipend for books and supplies. Detailed information about the Yellow Ribbon Program can be found [here](#). Since this program pays 100% of your tuition, students who are awarded through this program are not eligible for any other institutional scholarships at Mary Baldwin University.

- **Eligibility for Yellow Ribbon**

Only individuals entitled to the maximum benefit rate - 100% (based on service requirements) may receive Yellow Ribbon benefits. Please review the eligibility criteria directly from the [VA's Post-9/11 Website](#). These individuals can transfer their benefits to their dependents (TEB). For more information visit the [TEB Website](#).

- **Receiving Yellow Ribbon at Mary Baldwin University**

If you are eligible for a Yellow Ribbon award, it will be a part of your financial aid package in accordance with all federal, state and institutional rules and regulations. Your Yellow Ribbon award will credit to your account once you meet all enrollment and disbursement requirements. The VA match of your Yellow Ribbon award will issue payment directly to MBU on your behalf after your enrollment certification is processed by the VA.

## **NEXT STEPS**

- ✓ Read Chapter 3, Understanding Your Award
- ✓ If selected for verification or completing a special circumstance request, turn in all needed information to the Financial Aid Office as soon as possible.
- ✓ Continue search for outside scholarships

## **Chapter 3**

### **Understanding Your Award**

*We are here to help!*

Every college or university's award notice can be different. This chapter is designed to take you through the receipt and analysis of your award, ways your award may change, and how to finalize your award for the year.

#### **When will aid awards be prepared?**

Each year before award notification letters can be prepared; students must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The Board of Trustees must meet and finalize costs for the upcoming

academic year in order for us to calculate cost of attendance budgets. Frequently, we must also await information from the U. S. Department of Education or congressional action regarding federal aid options.

Award letters will be prepared for accepted applicants and returning students. Those applicants or returning students not filing the FAFSA should notify the Financial Aid Office so that any merit funds can be applied to their financial aid award. Students completing the FAFSA can expect award notification letters to be prepared within forty-eight to seventy-two hours once awarding begins each year. The awarding process will not usually begin for new applicants until mid-December. Returning students' award preparation should begin as soon as upcoming costs are confirmed and federal aid options are finalized.

## Your Award Package

Your award notification lists the financial aid you are eligible to receive. This initial award is based on information received to date. If the information in your financial aid record changes, your award may also change.

### How is an aid package determined?

**Institutional merit financial aid is awarded irrespective of need. You do not need to complete a separate application for this type of aid in the admissions process. Program or departmental aid is awarded by the program or department based on their criteria. You do not need to contact them directly.**

**Eligibility for need based aid is based on this formula:**

**Cost of Attendance minus Expected Family Contribution = Need**

**(COA –EFC= Need)**

The financial aid office will include in your financial aid award letter all the types of financial aid for which you are eligible. Merit and need- based grants and scholarships are packaged first, need based self-help aid (loans and federal work-study) are packaged next, remaining non need loan eligibility is packaged last. Students may still have remaining need at this point. See information below about how the different aid elements are allocated.

### Why did your award change?

Your award could change for a number of reasons:

1. You filed your FAFSA using estimated information. When you updated that information using your income tax return, a change was required.
2. Your application was selected for verification and corrections were made to your FAFSA as part of this process. See Chapter 2 for details on the verification process.
3. You received outside scholarships that affected your other financial aid. You are required by federal regulation to notify our office of all outside scholarships received whether paid directly to you or to the college. How your outside scholarships are required to be applied (tuition and fees, books only,

or room and board) will control whether they change parent and/or student loans or impact college grant funds.

4. You requested a professional judgment due to a change in circumstances. See Chapter 2 for information about professional judgment options.
5. You have reached aggregated limits for Federal loans or you have reached the lifetime limit for Federal grants.

## Finalizing your Financial Aid

In calculating how you plan to cover your college expenses, there are four ways of paying any remaining balance.

1. Pay the entire balance as billed each semester.
2. Use a Tuition Payment Plan to break payments into 5 payments per semester (MBCW) or 4 payments (BALDWIN ONLINE AND ADULT PROGRAM/COE/MDCHS).
3. Pay balances by using student and/or parent loans.
4. Use a combination of the above in order to meet account obligations.

You can pay the University directly as billed each semester. The Student Accounts Office (Administration Building, Ground Floor) handles all charges and payments to your tuition account. The billing statement should show financial aid as pending until funds are actually received. If financial aid is not showing, then the financial aid process is not complete and you should contact the Financial Aid Office immediately. The balance due reflects what is due at the time of billing. There may be future charges for unpaid parking tickets, library fines, etc., or changes in financial aid if aid is adjusted or canceled due to verification or other resources. These payments can be made by check or online through the Mary Baldwin University website.

If a student wishes to take advantage of the monthly payment plan, early planning is necessary in order to initiate the plan to begin July 1. Even if using student and/or parent loans, it is important for the family to complete the process by June 1 in order for financial aid to be reflected on the billing statement. Loans can be adjusted at a later date if a student's financial need changes because of outside scholarships.

## What charges are on my student account?

*Direct Costs:*

- Room
- Meal plan
- Tuition & Fees:
  - Automobile registration: \$50 for residential students and \$20 for commuter students
  - Student Activities Fee
  - Course fees (i.e., private music, art, etc.) – if enrolling in a course with a special fee, or if taking an overload (over 18 credits per term). See current Charges Sheet online.

### *Indirect Costs:*

Other Expenses Paid Separately – these are additional expenses (ex: Books) which a student may have to pay at some level, but not necessarily to Mary Baldwin University.

## **Types of Financial Aid**

There are two types of financial aid: gift aid and self-help aid. Gift aid includes scholarships and grants which usually do not require repayment. Self-help aid includes loans and student employment. Loans require repayment. Student loans do not require repayment until six months after the student drops below half-time or is no longer in attendance. Parent loans usually begin repayment 60 days after fully disbursed, although forbearances may be requested. Student employment requires students to obtain a job and work requisite hours for pay received based on biweekly submitted time sheets.

### **Scholarships & Grants**

Scholarships and grants come from federal, state, and college as well as outside sources. Each may have different prerequisites and requirements for maintaining eligibility.

If a student is only enrolled for one semester in an academic year, they will receive half of their annual award for that semester. If a student is not full-time at the end of the drop/add period, institutional aid will be removed and other aid adjusted depending on the level of enrollment. Financial aid will not be adjusted until the end of the drop/add period to allow students ample time to complete their enrollment. Students planning to be enrolled only part-time should notify the financial aid office in writing of their plans so their aid can be adjusted ahead of enrollment and billing statements will reflect accurate aid.

### **Types of Institutional Aid:**

#### **Merit Scholarships**

Mary Baldwin University awards merit scholarships based on a holistic review of your admissions file and performance in the admission process. This includes evaluation of academic performance, standardized test scores, extracurricular involvement, and leadership activity. These amounts are annual and renewable for up to 4 years (8 semesters) provided that satisfactory academic progress is made each year. Accepted applicants will be notified of their award by the Director of Admission.

#### **Mary Baldwin University Grant**

MBU Grant is a need-based grant to assist students with financial need. Need is determined based on the results of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The award is subject to change based on receipt of additional assistance from outside sources which may cover a student's need. A student must be full-time to receive the MBU Grant. The amount will be reduced if the student moves off campus. The annual award will be divided equally between the fall and spring semesters.

### **Types of State Aid:**

Virginia residents have access to funding opportunities from the Commonwealth.

## **Virginia Community College Transfer Grant**

Virginia residents who began a degree program at a Virginia community college after Fall 2007 and complete an Associate's degree with at least a cumulative 3.0 grade point average, may be eligible for the Virginia College Transfer Grant (CTG) if they enter a Virginia four-year college or university by the fall or spring term immediately following receipt of their Associate's degree. A student must have an expected family contribution of \$12,000 or less according to the FAFSA in order to be eligible for this grant. All eligible students will receive \$1,000 from the Commonwealth of Virginia if enrolled full-time in a degree program.

If the student is majoring in science, technology, engineering or math, there may be a second \$1,000 of CTG eligibility. Community colleges will note on student transcripts of possible eligibility. Students are eligible for grants for subsequent years, as long as they maintain a 3.0 GPA for up to 70 credits undergraduate study.

## **Virginia Tuition Assistance Grant**

Mary Baldwin University reviews the VTAG application for residents of the Commonwealth of Virginia who attend Mary Baldwin University. This program is available to students attending certain private colleges in Virginia such as Mary Baldwin. Applications are available online at Mary Baldwin University's website as well as the State Council for Higher Education in Virginia (SCHEV). <http://www.schev.edu/forms/TAGApplication1617.pdf>

The VTAG is awarded solely on the basis of Virginia residency and applies only toward full-time tuition. Students normally must be Virginia residents for a minimum of one year to qualify; however, dependent students qualify based on the residency of their parent(s). Students should apply by July 31 for fall funding. The VTAG application may be downloaded or requested from the Financial Aid Office.

Award amounts are estimated and subject to change during the academic year by the State Council for Higher Education in Virginia (SCHEV), based on annual budget levels and the number of eligible students statewide during that academic year. Any budget shortfalls which may arise at the state level will be passed on to the student. Students should continue to apply between July 31 and December 1; however, funding is not guaranteed by SCHEV.

Students are limited to eight semesters of the VTAG award as an undergraduate student. Any student withdrawing before the census date of a term will lose VTAG funding, but will retain eligibility for future terms. Any student withdrawing after the census date will receive a prorated amount of VTAG for that term, but loses a semester of eligibility regardless of amount.

## **Types of Federal Aid:**

All federal grants are subject to Title IV regulations, changes based on legislative action by the U. S. Congress, and regulations from the U. S. Department of Education.

### **Federal Pell Grant**

The Federal Pell Grant is dependent upon on the Expected Family Contribution (EFC). Congress may change this range in the budget approval process. This grant is subject to all Title IV regulations regarding proration based on level of enrollment, outcomes of verification (if required), and used for educational purposes only. Repayment of this grant to the U. S. Department of Education may be required if an

overpayment or over-award occurs based on the receipt of other assistance or loans, or if the student withdraws from Mary Baldwin University.

### **Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant**

The FSEOG is for undergraduates with exceptional financial need; i.e., students with the lowest EFC--with priority to Pell grant recipients. Due to limited funding, there is no guarantee every eligible student will be able to receive an FSEOG. A student may be able to receive from up to \$500 a year, depending on when they apply, their level of need, and available funding from the federal government to Mary Baldwin University. Students must be enrolled full-time to receive this grant.

### **TEACH Grant**

Caution! If ALL requirements are not fulfilled within the time period allowed, this grant may be converted by the U. S. Department of Education to an unsubsidized Stafford loan with interest accruing from the date funds are received. Please read all documents carefully regarding responsibilities associated with this grant. To learn more, go to the U. S. Department of Education's website at [www.teachgrant.ed.gov](http://www.teachgrant.ed.gov).

In order to encourage students to enter the teaching profession within certain specific shortage areas, the federal government created the TEACH Grant. Information about the teacher shortage areas by state and the currently approved low-income schools can be found at [www.teachgrant.ed.gov](http://www.teachgrant.ed.gov). A total of four years out of the first eight years must be spent teaching in a high need area where the major population is low income families. Failure to complete this requirement will cause the grant to convert into a loan. There is no proration for teaching less than four years.

Mary Baldwin University has been approved by the U. S. Department of Education to participate in the TEACH Grant program. After carefully considering all details of this program, please contact the Financial Aid Office to participate in the TEACH Grant program. Once institutional eligibility has been established, the TEACH Grant will be awarded up to \$4,000 per year based on full-time enrollment. Students with part-time enrollment will be eligible to receive a prorated award. There is a lifetime limit of \$16,000 for undergraduate study and \$8,000 for graduate study. Once eligibility is confirmed, the financial aid office will provide the necessary information to the U. S. Department of Education and the student will be notified to complete an Agreement to Serve. The student must complete this agreement with the federal government ([www.teach-ats.ed.gov](http://www.teach-ats.ed.gov)), using their FSA ID to confirm their promise to repay this grant as a loan with an interest accruing from the date funds were received if they do not complete all the requirements.

In addition to federal requirements, the student must:

- ✓ Be enrolled in one of the following programs and plan to enter the teaching profession:
  - MAT or M.Ed. program
  - Undergraduate program only if preparing to teach
- ✓ Complete the annual Counseling and [Agreement to Serve](#) form with the U. S. Department of Education confirming the responsibilities associated with this grant program, including required payback if these responsibilities are not met. For initial and subsequent award years, the Financial Aid Office will review student's eligibility. At that time, online documents must be completed using their FSA ID before funds can be disbursed to their student account.

- ✓ Complete exit counseling regarding the TEACH Grant when leaving enrollment at Mary Baldwin University.

## **The Loan Process - William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program**

Direct Loans are low-interest loans for students and parents to help pay for the cost of a student's education. The lender is the U. S. Department of Education rather than a bank or other financial institution. The information in this section of the handbook is provided by the U. S. Department of Education. Federal loans include the Stafford loan, the PLUS (Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students) loan, and the Graduate PLUS loan.

After you enter into an agreement with the federal government about your federal student or PLUS loan, your loan information will be released to NSLDS (the National Student Loan Data Service) and will be accessible by authorized agencies, lenders, and institutions.

### **Federal Direct Stafford Loan**

All undergraduate students can borrow a base amount of Stafford annually which may be subsidized or unsubsidized dependent on need as determined by the FAFSA.

- \$3,500 for freshman level of study (0 to 26 credits) for a full academic year;
- \$4,500 for sophomore level of study (27 to 57 credits) for a full academic year; and
- \$5,500 for each year of junior and senior level of study (58 to 126 credits) for a full academic year.

In addition, all students regardless of dependency status may borrow up to \$2,000 unsubsidized Stafford loan each academic year. All independent students, or dependent students whose parents have been denied a parent PLUS loan, are eligible for an additional \$4,000 each year for freshman or sophomore level of study, and \$5,000 each year for junior or senior level of study. Graduate level students may also qualify for unsubsidized Stafford loans for half-time enrollment in a graduate program.

Repayment begins no later than six months after dropping below half-time enrollment, withdrawal, or graduation from the University. Several methods of repayment are available to help borrowers successfully repay their obligation. For more information on repayment, see "Repaying your Student Loans" section of Chapter 4 of the handbook.

### **Subsidized Stafford Loan**

Subsidized Stafford Loans are the better of the two types of Stafford Loans. The subsidy means that the federal government will pay the interest which accrues while the student is enrolled at least half-time in a degree-seeking program or eligible certificate program, and continuing through one six-month grace period following a student dropping below half-time. This loan is subject to an origination fee assessed at the time of disbursement.

### **Unsubsidized Stafford Loan**

An unsubsidized Stafford loan is not need based. You will be charged interest from the time the loan is disbursed until it is paid in full. If you allow the interest to accrue (accumulate) while you are in school or

during other periods of nonpayment, when you enter repayment it will be capitalized. In other words, the interest will be added to the principal amount of your loan, and additional interest will be based on that higher amount. This loan is subject to an origination fee assessed at the time of disbursement.

## Aggregate Loan Limits

Aggregate Limits for Sub/Unsub Loans	Subsidized	Total (subsidized & unsubsidized)
Dependent Undergraduates (excluding those whose parents can't borrow PLUS) .....	\$ 23,000 .....	\$31,000
Independent Undergrads & Dependent Students whose parents can't get PLUS.....	\$ 23,000 .....	\$ 57,500
Graduate & Professional Students.....	\$ 65,500**.....	\$ 138,500**

*See guidance later in this chapter on additional unsubsidized eligibility for students in certain health professions programs, special loan limits for preparatory & teacher certification coursework, and the 150% subsidized eligibility limitation.*

*\* Effective for loan periods beginning on or after July 1, 2012, graduate and professional students are no longer eligible for Direct Subsidized Loans.*

*\*\*Aggregate loan limits for graduate and professional students include loans received for undergraduate study. The \$65,500 subsidized aggregate loan limit shown here for graduate and professional students includes subsidized loans received for loan periods beginning before July 1, 2012, and prior subsidized loans received for undergraduate study.*

## Federal Perkins Loan

The Federal Perkins Loans are low-interest federal student loans for undergraduate and graduate students with exceptional financial need. The interest rate for this loan is 5%. The school is the lender of these funds. Awarding of these funds depends on your financial need and the availability of funds at the institution.

## Federal PLUS Loan

The Federal PLUS loan is available to a parent to cover the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) as a supplement to other financial aid sources. The yearly limit on a PLUS loan is equal to the student's cost of attendance less any other financial aid received. This loan is subject to an origination fee assessed at the time of disbursement.

PLUS loans have a fixed interest rate. Payments usually begin 60 days after the loan is fully disbursed each year. While interest begins to accumulate at the time the first disbursement is made, parents have the option of making interest-only payments or deferring all payments as long as the student is enrolled at least half-time for up to a period of four years. Parents must contact the lender directly to arrange forbearance. Either of these choices will result in more interest being paid if only minimum payments are being made during repayment. Average monthly payment is approximately \$50 per month for every \$4,000 borrowed. Unlike Stafford loans, PLUS loans do require credit approval.

Some graduate students may be eligible for a Grad PLUS loan. Contact the Financial Aid Office for more information.

## Applying for Your Loans

Once the student has been awarded a federally-funded loan for the academic year, further steps are required before the loan can be disbursed to their student account.

- ✓ Sign a Master Promissory Note. The MPN is a legally-binding agreement that contains the terms and conditions of the loan, and must be signed by all student and parent first-time borrowers. It explains how and when the loan should be repaid. By signing the agreement, the borrower promises to repay their loan.
- ✓ Complete entrance counseling. This is a requirement for all borrowers and must be completed ***each year*** before the loan is disbursed. Entrance counseling is a web-based information session explaining the student's responsibilities and rights.

Detailed loan instructions will be provided each academic year and will be included in the student's financial aid award package. They are also available online at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov). NOTE: The MPN should only be completed by first-time borrowers, and is good for ten years on all federal loans. If a parent is applying for a PLUS loan for more than one student, a MPN and a PLUS loan application must be completed for each student.

## Disbursement of funds

- Disbursements occur after the semesters drop/add period and student participation in classes has been confirmed.
- The loan will be paid directly to the school in two disbursements (one disbursement each semester). It will be paid in equal installments.
- The loan will be credited to the student's account to pay for school charges on their account (tuition, fees, room and board, and other authorized charges).
- If loan funds exceed school charges, the school will issue a refund on the credit balance unless the student has authorized the Student Accounts Office to retain the credit on their student account.

## Other Things to Remember

- If the student has a Stafford loan that has not previously entered repayment, they will enter the grace period when they withdraw, drop below half-time status, or graduate. Repayment will begin after the grace period ends.
- If the student is preparing to leave school, withdraw early, or transfer to another school, they must remember to notify the lender and the school. The student is also required to complete exit counseling. This session will provide information on their loans and when repayment begins.

## Monitor Your Loan Information

The U.S. Department of Education's National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) provides students with information on their federal loans including loan types, disbursed amounts, outstanding principal and interest, and the total amount of all loans. To access NSLDS, go to [www.nsls.ed.gov](http://www.nsls.ed.gov). The name of the loan servicer can also be found at this website, or can be obtained by calling the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243; TTY 1-800-730-8913).

## Student Employment

Student employment is available on campus at Mary Baldwin University. Campus positions may pay up to \$1,500 a year in exchange for approximately 8 hours of work per week by the student. Students will be paid at minimum wage for all hours worked.

Eligibility for student employment is determined by the Financial Aid Office and is a part of the student's total financial aid package. Subject to available funding, students who qualify for federal assistance based on their FAFSA results are awarded student employment if their total financial need is not met after all scholarships and grants have been applied.

All students eligible for student employment are offered an opportunity to secure a position on campus. Securing the position is the responsibility of each student. Student employment opportunities are posted [online](#) and will be available as of mid-June. There are not a sufficient number of jobs for those with eligibility, and the university cannot guarantee whether the student will be able to find employment that fits his or her schedule or desired job duties. For more information about securing a position on campus contact Priscila Cavalcante, Student Employment Coordinator at [pcavalcante@marybaldwin.edu](mailto:pcavalcante@marybaldwin.edu) or (540) 887.7152

All federal work study students must apply, interview, complete all paperwork, and be hired no later than two weeks after the beginning of the term, or risk losing their position for the year.

Students should understand that all student jobs on campus are real positions requiring work. Although the eligibility may be awarded, students can lose their jobs through failure to work as specified in their job contract. The student and supervisor will prepare a work schedule based on the student's class schedule.

## Student Employment Forms

Students seeking work study employment at Mary Baldwin University must complete and submit the following forms to the Student Employment Coordinator:

1. Virginia Personal Exemption Worksheet (VA-4)
2. Federal W-4 Worksheet
3. Department of Homeland Security Employment Eligibility Verification Form (I-9). This form requires the student to show original forms of identification.

Faxed or photocopied versions of these documents cannot be accepted!

Once students have completed their paperwork, they will be issued a student employment contract by the Student Employment Coordinator. This contract entitles the student to begin student employment. The student will be responsible for returning the completed contract to the Office of Financial Aid.

All forms must be completed before any work is performed. Paychecks will not be issued until these forms have been submitted to the Office of Business and Finance.

## **Your aid is not showing on your student account?**

Financial aid will be reflected on the student's account if all steps have been completed. However, if the FAFSA was selected for verification, federal, state and university need-based aid will not show as pending. If there is an application required, such as for the Virginia Tuition Assistance Grant, the aid will not show as pending until the application has been submitted and approved.

Student and/or parent loans not reflected on the student's account indicate a step has not been completed in the loan process. Frequently, students or parents will complete one step but not all. The most common omission is not completing the electronic master promissory note online.

Outside scholarships will not show on the statement until funds are actually received. If amounts have been confirmed with the Financial Aid Office, allowances may be made on the statement for those amounts. Remember, most scholarship amounts are divided equally between the fall and spring semesters.

All financial aid is applied to student accounts half in the fall and half in the spring. No aid will be released to the account before the end of the add/drop period each semester. We are required to confirm enrollment and eligibility each term before releasing the aid to the Student Accounts Office for disbursement to student accounts.

### **NEXT STEP?**

- ✓ Read Chapter 4, What Happens Next.
- ✓ Pay special attention to Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements.
- ✓ Be sure to notify the Financial Aid Office of all outside scholarships received.

## **Chapter 4**

### **Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) – 2017-2018**

*We are here to help!*

- **Undergraduate Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) – Federal & State Financial Aid**
- **Undergraduate Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) – Merit Scholarships**
- **Certificate Program Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)**
- **Graduate Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)**

The Federal Department of Education and Mary Baldwin University each require that you maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) in order to continue to receive financial aid. You must maintain a certain grade point average (GPA), completion rate, and progression through school. SAP is measured at the end of each payment period (semester).

## Undergraduate Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) - Federal & State Financial Aid

*Please note that these requirements are set forth for the purposes of financial aid only, and may differ from academic requirements. For information on academic standing requirements, contact your advisor.*

### Undergraduate (Bachelor's Degree and PBTL) Students:

Class Level	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior and PBTL
Semester Hours Earned	0-26	27-57	58-89	90-126
Min. GPA/class level	1.65	1.75	1.95	2.00

**Semester Hours:** This number of earned credit hours determines your class level.

**Minimum GPA/Class level:** This is the minimum cumulative GPA you must maintain while classified at the specified class level.

### **Completion Rate and Maximum Time Frame**

You must maintain a 67% cumulative completion rate of the courses in which you enroll. In addition, you may not receive aid for coursework in excess of 150% of the required hours to earn your degree or teaching license. See below for details and an example.

### **Cumulative Completion Rate:**

Students enrolled in degree programs are expected to complete a certain percentage of the courses for which they initially enroll in order to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress. Any time you register for a course and do not drop it before the end of the add/drop period, it will count as "Attempted Hours." Any time you pass a course in which you enroll, you will get "Earned Hours." Any time you fail, withdraw from, or take an "I" or "ET" in a course, it counts as hours **not** earned (ET's will count as earned once a replacement grade is issued). You can calculate the percentage of completion by dividing your earned hours by your attempted hours. The following example shows how a completion rate is calculated for someone who has completed 4 semesters:

	Fall 2014	Spring 2015	Fall 2015	Spring 2016	<b>Total</b>
Attempted	9	15	12	12	<b>48</b>
Earned	9	12	12	6	<b>39</b>

To determine the percentage of completion, you use the formula:

$(\text{Earned Hours} / \text{Attempted Hours}) \times 100 = \text{completion rate}$

In this case it would work out like this:  $(39 / 48) \times 100 = 81.25\%$

This person has an acceptable completion rate.

### Maximum Time Frame:

You may not receive aid for more than 150% of the required course load for your program. This means that you may not receive aid after attempting more than 1 ½ times the number of credit hours required to complete your degree.

Degree	Hours Required to Complete	Max Hours Allowed to Attempt With Aid
Bachelors	126	189

### Undergraduate Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) – Merit Scholarships

*Please note that these requirements are set forth for the purposes of financial aid only, and may differ from academic requirements. For information on academic standing requirements, contact your advisor.*

**Beginning with the 2017-2018 Academic Year**, Mary Baldwin University set a GPA requirement for Merit-based Scholarships. **Students beginning attendance in the 2017-2018 Academic Year are required to meet the GPA listed below for the specific Merit Scholarship.** At the end of each Spring Semester, the MBU Office of Financial Aid will review your GPA. If you do not meet the GPA Requirement, you will no longer be eligible to receive your Merit Scholarship unless you Appeal and are approved.

Merit Scholarship	GPA Requirement
Presidential Scholarship	2.5
Dean's Scholarship	2.5
Baldwin Scholarship	2.5
Founder's Scholarship	2.5
Opportunity Scholarship	2.5

**Beginning with the 2016-2017 Academic Year**, Mary Baldwin University set a GPA requirement for Merit-based Scholarships. **Students beginning attendance in the 2016-2017 Academic Year are required to meet the GPA listed below for the specific Merit Scholarship.** At the end of each Spring Semester, the MBU Office of Financial Aid will review your GPA. If you do not meet the GPA Requirement, you will no longer be eligible to receive your Merit Scholarship unless you Appeal and are approved.

Merit Scholarship	GPA Requirement
Presidential Scholarship	2.5
Dean's Scholarship	2.5
Baldwin Scholarship	2.0
Founder's Scholarship	2.0
Opportunity Scholarship	2.0

## Certificate Program Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

*Please note that these requirements are set forth for the purposes of financial aid only, and may differ from academic requirements. For information on academic standing requirements, contact your advisor.*

### Undergraduate Certificate Programs

You must maintain a **2.0** cumulative GPA.

You must maintain a **67%** cumulative completion rate.

You may not receive aid for coursework in excess of **150%** of the required hours to earn your certificate.

### Graduate Certificate Programs

You must maintain a **3.0** cumulative GPA.

You must maintain a **67%** cumulative completion rate.

You may not receive aid for coursework in excess of **150%** of the required hours to earn your certificate.

### Maximum Time Frame:

You may not receive aid for more than 150% of the required course load for your program. This means that you may not receive aid after attempting more than 1 ½ times the number of credit hours required to complete your program.

Undergraduate Certificate Program	Hours Required to Complete	Max Hours Allowed to Attempt With Aid
Long Term Care Administration	29	43.5
Entrepreneurship	21	31.5
Marketing Communication	21	31.5
Health Care Management	21	31.5
Project Management	12	18
Human Resource Management	18	27
Sustainable Business Management	21	31.5
Graduate Certificate Program	Hours Required to Complete	Max Hours Allowed to Attempt With Aid
Autism Spectrum Disorders	12	18
Environment Based Learning	12	18
Health Systems Leadership	24	36

## Graduate Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

*Please note that these requirements are set forth for the purposes of financial aid only, and may differ from academic requirements. For information on academic standing requirements, contact your advisor.*

### Murphy Deming College of Health Sciences

You must maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA, subject to review by your program faculty.  
You must maintain a 100% cumulative completion rate.  
You may not receive aid for coursework in excess of 150% of the required hours to earn your degree.

### Graduate Programs

You must maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA, subject to review by the graduate faculty.  
You must maintain a 67% cumulative completion rate.  
You may not receive aid for coursework in excess of 150% of the required hours to earn your degree.

### **Maximum Time Frame:**

You may not receive aid for more than 150% of the required course load for your program. This means that you may not receive aid after attempting more than 1 ½ times the number of credit hours required to complete your degree.

Degree	Hours Required to Complete	Max Hours Allowed to Attempt With Aid
MLitt	36	54
MFA	66 (including MLitt)	99
MAT Elementary or Middle School Education	39	58.5
M. Ed.	33	49.5
MAT Special Education	42	63
MBA	30	45
DPT	124	186
OTD	112	168
MSPA	126	189
MHA	45	67.5

### **Other Regulations:**

#### **Total Withdrawals**

No student may completely withdraw from 2 consecutive semesters. Students who completely withdraw from 2 consecutive semesters will be placed on permanent aid suspension.

## Repeating a Failed Course or a Passed Course with a low grade

A student may receive financial aid repeatedly to retake a failed course as long as the student is meeting the GPA and completion rate requirements of the SAP policy. The repeated course will be considered a part of the student's course load for the semester in which the student enrolls. A student may receive financial aid one time to retake a previously passed course. This course will be considered as part of the student's course load for the semester in which the student enrolls.

## What Happens if a Student Does Not Meet the Minimum Requirements?

### Warning:

If you fall below the standards of satisfactory academic progress for **GPA and/or completion rate** for the first time, you will receive a **financial aid warning letter**. After receiving your warning letter, you will have **one semester** during which you will continue receiving financial aid while attempting to meet the minimum requirements. At the end of that semester, if you have achieved progress enough to again be within the acceptable range of GPA and completion rate, your financial aid eligibility will be reinstated. Only one financial aid warning per student will be allowed. If you receive a warning, then reach the minimum requirements, then fall below them a second time, your aid will automatically be suspended.

### Suspension:

If, at the end of the semester following your warning letter, you are **not** meeting the minimum requirements, your financial aid will be suspended, which means that you will not receive any university, federal, or state financial aid until such time as you have progressed back into the acceptable range.

If you exceed the 150% maximum time frame, your financial aid will be suspended permanently for the duration of your degree. Students who completely withdraw from 2 consecutive semesters will be placed on permanent aid suspension as well.

### Appeals and Academic Plans:

If your violation of SAP requirements was due to circumstances beyond your control, you may request an appeal form from your financial aid counselor. Provide thorough documentation of your circumstances, and be prepared for the financial aid counselor to request additional documentation. You must also indicate why the circumstances causing you to not meet the minimum requirements will no longer affect your ability to achieve.

If your appeal is approved, you will be placed on **financial aid probation**. With your probation, the financial aid office will require you to **meet with your advisor and together develop an academic improvement plan and**, sign an **academic plan** which will be a document outlining certain conditions of your probation that must be maintained in order for you to continue receiving aid, such as a restriction of the number of credit hours that you may take per semester, a minimum GPA that you must achieve each semester, or other factors. Once your academic plan is signed and the academic improvement plan is received, the financial aid office will check each semester to determine whether you are meeting the conditions set forth in your academic plan. If you meet the conditions, your academic plan will continue into the next semester. If you fail to meet the conditions in your academic plan, your financial aid will be suspended. **Appeals may not be made more than once for the same circumstances**, although you may appeal a second time if your

financial aid is suspended due to failure to meet the conditions of your academic plan if you have additional circumstances to report.

## Chapter 5

*We are here to help!*

How do you reapply for next year? What happens when you graduate? How do you start repayment of your loans?

### Reapplying for Aid for Next Year

Each year you must renew your FAFSA information using your (and your family's) prior-prior year income. Go to [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) and complete the FAFSA form for the next academic year. If you file early using estimated income information, you must go back and insert the actual income figures listed on your tax return. Always follow the instructions for the new academic year FAFSA.

### Exiting Mary Baldwin University

**Graduating?** Congratulations! Whether you are moving into the workforce or on to graduate school, there are steps you need to take regarding your student loans. You must contact your lender to advise them that you are out of school, your new address, and employer, if known. You need to complete exit loan counseling to learn more.

#### Transfers and Withdrawals

We are sorry you are leaving, but it is important for you to know that six months after your last date of attendance at Mary Baldwin University, your lender will expect payments to begin on your loan. If you are continuing your enrollment at least half time in a degree program, you should apply for an in-school deferment through your lender. It is important to follow up with your lender two to three weeks after the beginning of the term to confirm they have received the deferment form.

**CAUTION!** You may need to complete this step more than once before you are finished with your education. Do not ignore communications from your lender regarding payments due. Be proactive!

Your aid at Mary Baldwin University does not transfer to another institution. You must start fresh by adding their school code to your FAFSA and working with their Financial Aid Office. Your new institution's Financial Aid Office will determine your aid eligibility. Your undisbursed aid at Mary Baldwin University will be cancelled either on the earliest date we are notified by the Dean of Students Office that you have completed formal withdrawal procedures, or when we confirm enrollment at the beginning of the next term and discover you are not enrolled. If you wish to expedite the process, please be sure to complete the proper exiting procedure through the Student Life Office.

## Return of Federal Title IV Funds

If you withdraw during a semester, depending upon the length of your enrollment, a portion of your federal Title IV funds may have to be returned to the U. S. Department of Education or lender as directed by federal regulation.

If for any reason you must withdraw or take a leave of absence from school during a semester, it is important that you immediately notify the Dean of Students Office and complete the withdrawal process. Each day enrolled can affect your charges on your student account and available financial aid with which to pay those charges. It is possible to be fully charged by the institution for tuition and/or room and board, but a portion or all of your federal Title IV funds may have to be returned to the federal government.

For information about proration of charges, see the Refund Policy in your catalog. As a result of these adjustments, you could have a balance due to the University. For more information about return of federal Title IV funds, please contact the Financial Aid Office.

## Exit Loan Counseling (all students)

Regardless of why you are leaving, be sure to complete your exit loan counseling (Stafford and Perkins, if applicable) so you do not face delinquency or default on your student loans because of inaction on your part. You are required to stay in contact with your lender concerning changes in enrollment, permanent address, and employment. Failure to repay your loans will have an adverse effect on your credit rating, which could make it difficult to obtain a mortgage or car loan in the future. What happens if you default on a student loan? Learn more about consequences of student default later in this chapter.

### ➤ **Stafford Loan**

Every graduating senior or student leaving Mary Baldwin University who received a federal subsidized or unsubsidized Stafford loan while at our school is required to complete exit loan counseling. You can satisfy this requirement by completing online exit counseling at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov) or by attending exit counseling sessions offered by the Financial Aid Office near the end of each semester. If you have questions about this process, please call the Financial Aid Office.

### ➤ **Perkins Loan**

If you received a Perkins loan during your time at Mary Baldwin University, you must complete exit loan counseling for that loan as well. You may satisfy this requirement by completing the exit loan counseling with the Perkins Loan Administrator in the Mary Baldwin University Student Accounts Office.

It is important that you start paying back your loans promptly. Remember you must notify the lender that you have finished school at Mary Baldwin University and also of any changes in address, enrollment, employment, etc. Refer to repaying your student debt later in this chapter for helpful information on starting loan repayment successfully.

If you have questions about student loans you accepted at Mary Baldwin University, you are welcome to stop by or call our office in the Administration Building to discuss your student loan debt and how best to handle getting started in repayment.

# Repaying Your Student Loans

## Make Your Payments on Time

Your loan servicer will provide information about repayment and will notify you of the date loan repayment will begin. It is very important that you make your full loan payment on time either monthly (which is usually when you will pay) or according to your repayment schedule. If you don't, you could end up in default, which has serious consequences (see [Default](#) below). Student loans are real loans—just as real as car loans or mortgages. You have to pay back your student loans.

## Get Your Loan Information

The U.S. Department of Education's National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) provides information on your federal loans including loan types, disbursed amounts, outstanding principal and interest, and the total amount of all your loans. To access NSLDS, go to [www.nsls.ed.gov](http://www.nsls.ed.gov) and log on with your FSA ID.

If you're not sure who your loan servicer is, you can look it up on [www.nsls.ed.gov](http://www.nsls.ed.gov) or call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243; TTY 1-800-730-8913).

## Repayment Plans

You have a choice of several repayment plans that are designed to meet the different needs of individual borrowers. The amount you pay and the length of time to repay your loans will vary depending on the repayment plan you choose.

### ➤ **Standard Repayment**

With the standard plan, you will pay a fixed amount each month until your loans are paid in full. Your monthly payment will be at least \$50, and you will have up to 10 years to repay your loans.

Your monthly payment under the standard plan may be higher than it would be for other plans because your loans will be repaid in the shortest length of time. For that reason, having a 10-year limit on repayment, you may pay the least interest.

### ➤ **Extended Repayment**

Under the extended plan, you will pay a fixed annual or graduated repayment amount over a period not to exceed 25 years. A Direct Stafford Loan borrower must have more than \$30,000 in outstanding Direct Loans. Your fixed monthly payment is lower than it would be under the Standard Plan, but you will ultimately pay more for your loan because of the accumulated interest during the longer repayment period.

This is a good plan if you will need to make smaller monthly payments. Because the repayment period will be 25 years, your monthly payments will be less than with the standard plan. However, you may pay more in interest because you are taking longer to repay the loans. Remember that the longer your loans are in repayment, the more interest you will pay.

### ➤ **Graduated Repayment**

With this plan, your payments start out low and increase every two years. The length of your repayment period will be up to ten years. If you expect your income to increase steadily over time,

this plan may be right for you. Your monthly payment will never be less than the amount of interest that accrues between payments. Although your monthly payment will gradually increase, no single payment under this plan will be more than three times greater than any other payment.

➤ **Income Based Repayment (IBR)**

Income Based Repayment (IBR) is a repayment plan for the major types of federal loans made to students. Under IBR, the required monthly payment is capped at an amount that is intended to be affordable based on income and family size. You are eligible for IBR if the monthly repayment amount under IBR will be less than the monthly amount calculated under a 10-year standard repayment plan. If you repay under the IBR plan for 25 years and meet other requirements, you may have any remaining balance of your loan(s) cancelled. Additionally, if you work in public service and have reduced loan payments through IBR, the remaining balance after ten years in a public service job could be cancelled.

➤ **Income Contingent Repayment (ICR)**

This plan gives you the flexibility to meet your Direct Loan obligations without causing undue financial hardship. Each year, your monthly payments will be calculated on the basis of your adjusted gross income (AGI, plus your spouse's income if you are married), family size, and the total amount of your Direct Loans. Under the Income Contingent Repayment (ICR) plan you will pay each month the lesser of:

1. The amount you would pay if loan is repaid in 12 years multiplied by an income percentage factor that varies with your annual income, or
2. 20 percent of your monthly discretionary income.

If your payments are not large enough to cover the interest that has accumulated on your loans, the unpaid amount will be capitalized once each year. However, capitalization will not exceed 10 percent of the original amount you owed when you entered repayment. Interest will continue to accumulate but will no longer be capitalized (added to the loan principal).

The maximum repayment period is 25 years. If you have not fully repaid your loans after 25 years under this plan (time spent in deferment or forbearance does not count), the unpaid portion will be discharged. However, you may have to pay taxes on the amount that is discharged.

Graduate and professional student Direct PLUS Loan borrowers are eligible to use the ICR plan. Parent Direct PLUS Loan borrowers are not eligible for the ICR repayment plan.

➤ **Income Sensitive Repayment Plan**

Your monthly payment for this plan is based on your annual income. You have up to 15 years to complete your payments. The formula for determining the monthly payment may vary from lender to lender.

➤ **Pay As You Earn and Pay as You Earn Revised**

Your monthly payment will be 10% of discretionary income. Payments are recalculated each year and are based on your updated income and family size. Any outstanding balance will be forgiven if you have not repaid the full loan amount in 25 year.

## **Additional Information**

If you have specific questions about repaying Direct Stafford Loans or Perkins Loans, contact your loan servicer. If you do not know who your loan servicer is, go to [www.nsls.ed.gov](http://www.nsls.ed.gov) to find out.

### **Loan Interest Rate Information:**

- To access information on your federal loans including interest rates, go to [www.nsls.ed.gov](http://www.nsls.ed.gov).
- For additional details on Direct Stafford Loans, [click here](#).

## **WHY DOES THE AMOUNT OF INTEREST I PAY VARY FROM MONTH TO MONTH?**

Interest accrues on a daily basis on your loans. Factors such as the number of days between your last payment, the interest rate, and the amount of your loan balance determine the amount of interest that accrues each month.

### **Electronic Payment**

In some cases, you might be able to reduce your interest rate if you sign up for electronic debiting.

#### **About Electronic Debit**

Your bank can automatically deduct your monthly loan payments from your checking or saving accounts. Payments are forwarded to your loan servicer for processing.

Electronic debiting is the most convenient and efficient way to make your student loan payments. You do not have to remember to mail a check each month, and your loan payments will always be on time.

To sign up for electronic debit:

- Direct Stafford Loan Borrowers: Contact your loan servicer. If you do not know your loan servicer, you can look it up on [www.nsls.ed.gov](http://www.nsls.ed.gov).
- Perkins Loan Borrowers: To sign up for electronic debit, contact the school that holds your loan to see if it offers this service.

### **Trouble Making Payments**

Having trouble making your loan payments? Before you miss a single payment, contact your lender to determine if you qualify for economic hardship forbearance or other forbearance or repayment options to better manage your loan repayment. This will only postpone payments not cancel them. Explore different repayment options before relying on forbearance. Perhaps you can switch to an income based repayment (IBR), or a loan consolidation. You can learn more about these options from your loan servicer(s). Again, be sure you are utilizing the National Student Loan Data System at [www.nsls.ed.gov](http://www.nsls.ed.gov) in order to track all of your loans and servicers. CAUTION: With multiple loans, it is possible that you may have more than one loan servicer. Be sure you share information with all servicers as they will not necessarily share with each other.

You received a notice about non-payment of your student loan? Do NOT wait! Contact your lender immediately to avoid delinquency or default and to avoid your loan going to collections. You may still be able to arrange a forbearance or deferment if you act now. Your servicer will work with you to determine your best option.

Options include:

- Changing repayment plans.
- Requesting a deferment—If you meet certain requirements, a deferment allows you to temporarily stop making payments on your loan.
- Requesting a forbearance—If you do not meet the eligibility requirements for a deferment but are temporarily unable to make your loan payments, then (in limited circumstances) a forbearance allows you to temporarily stop making payments on your loan, temporarily make smaller payments, or extend the time for making payments.

Receiving deferment or forbearance is not automatic. You or your parents must apply for it. You MUST continue making payments on your student loan until notification that your request for deferment or forbearance has been granted. If you do not and your deferment or forbearance is not approved, you will become delinquent and may default on your loan.

Note to PLUS Loan borrowers: Generally, the same eligibility requirements and procedures for requesting a deferment or forbearance for Direct Stafford Loan borrowers also apply to you. However, since all PLUS Loans are unsubsidized, you will be charged interest during periods of deferment or forbearance. If you do not pay the interest as it accrues, it will be capitalized (added to the principal balance of the loan), thereby increasing the amount you will have to repay.

If you stop making payments and do not get a deferment or forbearance, your loan could go into delinquency and default (see Default section below), which has serious consequences.

For more information on deferment or forbearance, go to <https://studentaid.ed.gov/repay-loans> and click on “Trouble making payments”.

### **Loan Cancellation (Discharge)**

In certain circumstances, your loan can be cancelled/discharged:

- You die or become totally and permanently disabled.
- Your school closed before you could complete your program.
- You work in certain designated public school service professions (including teaching in a low-income school).
- You file for bankruptcy. (This cancellation is rare and occurs only if a bankruptcy court rules that repayment would cause undue hardship.)
- For more information see: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation>.

## **Cancellation and Deferment Options for Teachers**

If you are a teacher serving in a low-income or subject-matter shortage area, it may be possible for you to cancel or defer your student loans. For more information about eligibility requirements, visit <http://www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov/tc>

## **Loan Forgiveness for Public Service Employees**

Under the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, if you are employed in a public service job, you may have the balance of your loans forgiven if you make 120 on-time monthly payments under certain repayment plans after October 1, 2007. You must be employed full-time in a public service job during the same period in which the qualifying payments are made and at the time that the cancellation is granted. The amount forgiven is the remaining outstanding balance of principal and accrued interest on eligible Direct Loans that are not in default.

## **Civil Legal Assistance Attorney Student Loan Repayment Program (CLAARP)**

The Civil Legal Assistance Attorney Student Loan Repayment Program was established to encourage qualified individuals to enter and continue employment as civil legal assistance attorneys.

## **Consequences of Student Loan Delinquency and Default**

If you default on your student loan, federal regulations require your loan servicer to:

- Send a bad credit report on your account to these national credit bureaus:

Equifax - [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com), 1-800-685-1111

Experian - [www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com), 1-888-397-3742

TransUnion [www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com), 1-800-888-4213

Innovis, Inc. - [www.innovis.com](http://www.innovis.com), 1-800-540-2505

- Start formal collection activity on your account.
- Turn your account over to a collection agency if they are unsuccessful in collecting your account.
- Add collection costs, including attorney's fees, to your loan, increasing the total amount you owe (up to 22%).
- Garnish your wages.

In addition:

- Your federal income tax refund may be seized in an effort to satisfy your student loan debt.
- Your loan could be transferred to the U.S. Department of Education for collection.
- You may lose a professional license, such as legal, medical, nursing, teaching, etc.
- You lose eligibility for future student financial aid under the federal programs.
- You lose your right to deferments or forbearance until you rehabilitate your loan.

Again, not sure who holds your federal student loan? Go to the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) at <http://www.nslds.ed.gov> and use your FAFSA ID to gain access to your federal student loan information.

## **NEXT STEP?**

- ✓ Prepare a student budget.
- ✓ Continue to search for outside scholarships for future years.

# **Appendices**

## **Appendix 1 – Contact Information**

The Financial Aid Office is located on the ground floor of the Administration Building. Our staff is dedicated to helping you, the student, achieve your educational goals by accomplishing many tasks and resolving issues in one location.

### **Financial Aid Staff**

Robin Dietrich, Director of Financial Aid, [rdietric@marybaldwin.edu](mailto:rdietric@marybaldwin.edu)

Sara Eggleston, Assistant Director of Financial Aid for Adult & Graduate Studies,  
[seggleston@marybaldwin.edu](mailto:seggleston@marybaldwin.edu)

Priscila Cavalcante, Assistant Director of Financial Aid, [pcavalcante@marybaldwin.edu](mailto:pcavalcante@marybaldwin.edu)

Carol Waldmann, Associate Director of Financial Aid & Technology, [cwaldmann@marybaldwin.edu](mailto:cwaldmann@marybaldwin.edu)

### **How to Contact Us:**

Hours: 8:30am – 4:30pm (EST) Monday through Friday

Located: Administration Building, Ground Floor

Phone: 540.887.7022

Fax: 540.887.7229

Email: [finaid@marybaldwin.edu](mailto:finaid@marybaldwin.edu)

### **Mailing Address:**

Financial Aid Office  
Mary Baldwin University  
Post Office Box 1500  
Staunton, VA 24402

## A Reminder on FERPA

Mary Baldwin University complies with the Family Educational Right to Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) as amended, pertaining for access to and the release of information contained in school records. In order to review a student’s full rights under the Act, please consult the Mary Baldwin University Academic Catalog and review the Declarations section. Questions or concerns should be directed to the Office of Student Life.

### Feedback

Was someone particularly helpful? Did you have a problem getting your question answered or problem resolved? Have a suggestion on how we can improve our service to you? Please let us know. Email us with “Suggestion” in the subject line to any of our staff or drop a note in campus mail. We value your opinion!

## Appendix 2 - Timelines

Don’t be late and miss out on aid opportunities!

Our timelines are designated to help students stay on track for completing the financial aid process. You can complete these steps much earlier than the recommended dates. In many cases if you miss these dates we can still work with you, but the anxiety of not knowing if you have funding will be much greater. Heavy telephone calls and visits to our office before the beginning of school will make it difficult for us to be responsive to your questions and concerns. We highly recommend completing your financial aid process early, even if it means slight adjustments later. Our goal is to give you the personalized attention you deserve!

### Timeline for Fall Entry for New, Transfer, or Continuing Undergraduate Students

Fall, previous to enrollment	Begin search for outside scholarship opportunities for the next academic year.
October – March Priority filing dates: March 1 – new students April 15 – returning students	<p>The 2017-18 FAFSA may be filed as early as October 1. The FAFSA will ask for 2015 income and tax information. Go to <a href="http://www.fafsa.gov">www.fafsa.gov</a> to file your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (<b>FAFSA</b>) for the next academic year, signing electronically with your official FSA ID (you and a parent can apply while completing your FAFSA if you do not have one from a prior year). If you are selected for verification, you must send us W-2 or 1099 forms, the <a href="#">verification worksheet</a>, <b>and</b> a copy of an income tax return transcript or a signed copy of the student and parent 2015 Federal 1040 forms. An income tax return transcript can be requested from the IRS by calling 800-908-9946 or at <a href="http://www.irs.gov">www.irs.gov</a>. Our <b>Title IV School Code is 003723</b>.</p> <p><b>Not filing the FAFSA?</b> Please let us know in writing (email is acceptable) as soon as possible after January 1. We can then apply any merit-based awards to the upcoming academic year aid screens and finalize your record so aid will appear on your statement of account.</p>

<b>March 1 FAFSA PRIORITY DEADLINE – NEW STUDENTS</b>	Priority deadline for filing for new students. Complete FAFSA, verification process (if selected), and any loan application, promissory note, etc., and make payment arrangements by this date. Aid is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis and certain need-based funds may be unavailable after this date.
June 15  Complete Verification	Priority deadline for completing verification process, if selected. Federal aid cannot be released until this process is completed as changes may occur in eligibility.
June 15  Monthly Payment Plan Available	Deadline for processing parent PLUS or private student loans. Priority deadline for student Stafford loans. If you are receiving an outside scholarship(s), you may include them in your financial planning if you have advised the financial aid staff of the amount and source of the scholarship. Although we will continue to process loans, students will have less time to make other payment arrangements should problems occur with their parent or private loans.
July 31	Deadline for Virginia residents to file the Virginia Tuition Assistance Grant (VTAG) application. <b>If you have received this grant at Mary Baldwin University in the prior year, you do not need to reapply.</b>
August 1	Finalize fall payment arrangements. If not utilizing loans or the payment plan, payment in full for fall charges is due by this date.
Late November	If loans were not utilized for the full academic year, the spring semester loan process must be completed by December 1.
December 1	Payment arrangements for spring must be settled. If not using loans or the payment plan to pay your account, payment in full for spring is due by this date.

If you are a transfer student or have dual enrollment credits to transfer, be sure you have requested a final official transcript from your college (not high school) in order for those credits to be considered. If you have AP or IB tests, be sure to have official scores sent directly to the College.

### **Timeline for Spring Entry for New Students (First Year & Transfers)**

October 1	Add Mary Baldwin University to your FAFSA using our <b>Title IV Code 003723</b> to the college release section.
October 15	Upon acceptance, financial aid awards for spring will be mailed beginning at this time.
November 15	If selected, the verification process must be completed.
November 15	Student and parent loan process (including online Master Promissory Notes) must be completed by this time in order for amounts to show on December statements.
December 1	Payment arrangements for spring must be settled. If not using loans or the payment plan to pay your account, payment in full for spring is due by this date.

If you are a transfer student or have dual enrollment credits to transfer, be sure you have requested a final transcript from your college (not high school) in order for those credits to be considered. If you have AP or IB tests, be sure to have official scores sent directly to the College.

## Timeline for Graduate Students

Our graduate students are usually re-entering the classroom on much shorter notice than undergraduates. We try to accommodate your sudden career and life changes.

Ten weeks prior to start of term	File FAFSA with our Title IV Code 003723 in the college release section.
Nine weeks prior	Review your Student Aid Report online for accuracy. If selected, complete the verification process as described in Chapter 2 of this Handbook.
Six weeks prior	Complete loan process for student loans, including online Master Promissory Note unless a prior note exists which can be used (within past 10 years). Plan for the entire academic year; however, changes can be made before each term.
Four weeks prior	Confirm with the Student Accounts and Financial Aid Office that all forms and processes are complete.

### Monthly Payment Plan for Graduate and BALDWIN ONLINE AND ADULT PROGRAM Students

Fall Semester – August 1- November 1

Spring Semester – December 1-March 1

Summer Semester-April 1- July 1

## Appendix 3 – Monthly Payment Plan for College for Women

Please review this information for participating in the Monthly Payment Plan (MPP). Please feel free to contact the plan administrator, Advanced Education Services (AES) at 1-800-551-2773, ext. 15 if you have any questions about the MPP.

- You can enroll in the Monthly Payment Plan online. Go to [www.marybaldwin.edu](http://www.marybaldwin.edu), click on MyMBU at the top of the page and follow the link to Monthly Payment Plan. Or call the plan administrator, AES to enroll by phone. There will be no paper enrollment forms available. MPP enrollment should be completed **PRIOR to 7/1**.
- If you need assistance determining your payment plan budget amount, call Mary Baldwin University Student Accounts Office-MBCW at 540-887-7363.
- This year there will be a 5 month payment plan for the *Fall Semester...July through November* and a 5 month payment plan for the *Spring Semester...December through April*. The enrollment fee will be \$30.00 for each semester plan. Annual budgets will not be available.
- All MPP payments will be either automatic bank debit (ACH) or automatic credit card. Checks or money orders will not be accepted for MPP payments.
- You may elect to have your payment due on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> day of each month.

- Monthly Payment Plan payments **cannot** be initiated through the Mary Baldwin University online payment portal. All MPP payments must be processed by the plan administrator via automatic bank debit or credit card.

## Appendix 4 – Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q: How do I apply for an academic scholarship?**

A: Apply and complete the application process for enrollment to Mary Baldwin University for the College for Women. Based on your official transcripts and test scores from high school or college transcript and number of credit hours achieved if a transfer student, the Admissions Office awards your academic scholarship or grant.

### **Q: When should I file my FAFSA?**

A: File your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible after October 1 for the next academic year at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov). Your application will be more accurate if you have completed your federal tax return. See our timelines in Appendix 2 for more guidance. Beginning with the 2017-2018 academic year, you may file your FAFSA beginning October 1<sup>st</sup> using prior-prior year income tax information.

### **Q: Why is there a charge to file my FAFSA?**

A: Stop! There is no charge to file the FAFSA. If you are being charged a fee, you are not at the U.S. Department of Education's web site ([www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)). Go to [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) to complete your application at no cost. If you have any questions, please call us (540.887.7022).

### **Q: What is Mary Baldwin University's federal Title IV Code and how do I use it?**

A: Use Mary Baldwin University's federal Title IV Code 003723 in the college release section of the FAFSA in order for our Financial Aid Office to receive the results.

### **Q: Am I a dependent student or an independent student?**

A: Are you 24 or older? Are you married? Do you have dependents for which you pay more than half the support? Are you an orphan or ward of the court? Are you a veteran of the armed services? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you are an independent student. There are new rules pertaining to students who are determined to be homeless or emancipated as a minor which may impact your status. Please refer to the FAFSA on the Web Worksheet or contact our office. See Chapter 2, Applying for Aid.

### **Q: What options do I have if my parents cannot/will not help?**

A: Unfortunately, the U.S. Department of Education does not make exceptions for this situation. Except for documented cases of physical or emotional abuse and/or abandonment, a dependent student cannot be declared independent. (Please see information in Chapter 2.) Students may have eligibility for the base amount of Stafford loan as an unsubsidized loan. There are private loan options and school funds which are

sometimes made available to students experiencing financial difficulties. Please see the Director of Financial Aid for individual assistance.

**Q: What happens if I get married?**

A: The U.S. Department of Education does not allow students to change their FAFSA filing due to a change in marital status. If you have already filed as a dependent student with your parents' information, you will not be able to change your status until the following academic year. Whenever possible, try to plan accordingly and wait to file the FAFSA until after your marriage. Contact the Financial Aid Office for help in timing your filing.

**Q: Do I have to file the FAFSA every year?**

A: In order to receive federal funds (including student loans) as a part of your financial aid package, you must file the FAFSA every year while attending Mary Baldwin University. We recommend filing by April 1 if at all possible.

**Q: I was selected for verification. What does that mean?**

A: Approximately one out of every three FAFSA applications is selected for verification by the U.S. Department of Education. If your FAFSA was selected, Mary Baldwin University is required to collect an income tax return transcript or a signed copy of your and your parents Federal 1040 form from you and your parents, as well as a verification worksheet, W-2 and/or 1099 forms, and any other information necessary to confirm your FAFSA application. See Chapter 2 of this Handbook.

**Q: What happens if I move off campus? Will my financial aid change?**

A: Your aid eligibility may change. Please check with the Financial Aid Office.

**Q: What is the difference between subsidized and unsubsidized Stafford loans?**

A: A subsidized Stafford loan has a government subsidy of the interest being paid while the student is enrolled in school at least half-time. Unsubsidized loans accrue interest in the student's name which must be repaid after the student graduates, drops below half-time enrollment, or withdraws from school. Neither loan requires payment while the student is enrolled at least half-time (see Chapter 3 of this Handbook).

**Q: How much can I borrow?**

A: Loan limits for Direct Loans are controlled by the U.S. Department of Education. For PLUS loans, the limit is the cost of attendance (COA) less other financial aid. For Stafford loans, the student's class level, dependency status, and ability to get a PLUS loan (for dependent students) will control the limits. See Chapter 3 for details.

**Q: How do I choose a lender for my loans?**

A: Since the Spring 2010 semester, all colleges and universities are required to participate in the William D. Ford Direct Loan Program. All federal loans will be through that program. Review the loan process in Chapter 3 for detailed instructions on how to complete your electronic Master Promissory Note (eMPN).

You have the ability to access and track all your federal loans at [www.nslds.ed.gov](http://www.nslds.ed.gov) by using your FSA ID and password.

**Q: What is a PLUS loan and how do I get one?**

A: A PLUS Loan is a Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students; therefore, only a parent (not grandparent or legal guardian) may apply. Graduate students may have some eligibility for a Grad PLUS loan and should contact our office for more information. See Chapter 3 for more about PLUS loans.

**Q: How will my financial aid be paid to me?**

A: Your financial aid will be divided equally between semesters and released to your student account following the end of the registration drop/add period each semester. You must attend all classes or actively participate in all on line classes for which you are registered before your enrollment status and your aid eligibility for the semester may be finally determined. No funds can be credited until they are actually received from the source whether federal, state, or outside scholarship agencies. See Chapter 3 for more information about your award.

**Q: I'm only enrolled part-time. Am I really getting all of this financial aid back?**

A: Not necessarily. Our office will not make adjustments to your financial aid for part-time enrollment until the end of the registration drop/add period, as you may be working to reach full-time status and maintain eligibility for the aid shown on your award notification letter. During that time, your billing statement will only show charges for part-time enrollment and may indicate a credit balance based on full-time aid. Your aid must be adjusted for your level of enrollment before a refund can be calculated. Please notify the Financial Aid Office in writing as soon as possible if you are planning to enroll in fewer than 12 credit hours in a term so that we may adjust your financial aid to match your plans.

**Q: When will I get my excess loan funds refunded to me?**

A: Refunds are not processed until after the end of the drop/add period for course adjustments. Once actual funds are received and enrollment confirmed, refunds are processed within 14 days unless you authorized us to retain excess funds on your account. If you initially directed us to retain your funds but later decide you wish to receive a refund, a written request must be made to the Student Accounts Office for that refund.

**Q: I have a federal work study position listed on my award notification. Do I have to take a job? Where will I work?**

A: No, in fact, it is your responsibility to obtain a position. Your award notice only indicates your eligibility for the work study program. This is a real job - if you work, you will be paid; if you do not work, you will not be paid. You will receive a bi-monthly paycheck following regular submission of your time sheet. See Chapter 3 for more details on Student Employment.

**Q: Do my grades have any effect on my financial aid?**

A: Yes! Financial aid (including Merit Scholarships) are subject to satisfactory academic progress. This is both a qualitative (GPA) and quantitative (number of hours) measurement. The Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirement is separate from the academic warnings, probation, and suspensions issued by the

Academic Affairs Office. Detailed information is also available in each year's catalog and in Chapter 4 of this Handbook.

**Q: I want to withdraw from a class. Will I lose any financial aid?**

A: Not necessarily, but it will depend on when you withdraw. Some aid, such as veteran's benefits, is impacted by any change. If you withdraw from a class before the end of drop/add period at the beginning of each semester, it will not affect your financial aid as long as you are still full time (12 semester hours). If you withdraw after the end of drop/add, you will still be charged for the hours, even if you drop below full time. Doing so will not have any effect on your financial aid for that semester, but too many withdrawals after drop/add can have a serious effect on aid eligibility. Our office can only aid you for hours attempted up to 150 percent of the program length. See the 150% Rule in Chapter 4 of this handbook.

**Q: What if I need to leave MBU before graduation?**

A: You must follow proper procedures for exiting the College by checking out through the Student Life Office and visiting all required offices, including the Financial Aid Office. Failure to do so could result in loss of some financial aid and additional sums due to the college. See exiting MBU in Chapter 4 of this handbook for information regarding how changing your enrollment affects your financial aid.

**Q: I am currently enrolled in the 5 year Masters of Education program. What will my financial aid look like for my fifth year?**

A: You will receive financial aid at the undergraduate level until you earn a Bachelor's Degree. At that point, you will be eligible for financial aid at the graduate level if you meet the Masters of Education admissions criteria.

**Q: What is considered full time enrollment?**

A: An undergraduate student must take 12 semester hours in any given semester to be considered full time and eligible for full time aid. (May Term is optional. For students taking May Term classes, May Term hours are added to spring semester hours to determine enrollment status and eligibility for federal student aid. May Term hours do not count toward spring enrollment status for institutional financial aid or for the Virginia Tuition Assistance Grant. A graduate student must take 9 semester hours in any given semester to be considered full time and eligible for full time aid.

## Appendix 5 - Websites and Other Resources

Look to the Mary Baldwin University [website](#) for costs and financial aid links as well as online information, forms and resources (including this handbook).

<https://fsaid.ed.gov>

This is the official web site to apply for an FSA ID. You must have an FSA ID when filing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This FSA ID should be kept in a secure place since you will use it every

academic year a FAFSA is filed. Both student and parent must apply for their own individual FSA ID and password.

[www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)

This is the official website for filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You can also check your FAFSA status and make corrections to a processed FAFSA. CAUTION: Do not use a .com site as those sites will charge a fee. Use the U. S. Department of Education's .gov site listed here.

[NSLDS](#)

The web site for the U.S. Department of Education's central database where you can track your federal student aid received including grants, loans, and the lender and servicer of any federal loan you have received.

[Student Aid On The Web](#)

[U.S. Department of Education](#)

[Your Federal Student Loans: Learn the Basics and Manage Your Debt](#)

The U.S. Department of Education's new booklet is for students who have, or are considering, federal student loans to pay for their postsecondary education. It covers all available federal student loans, the difference between private and federal student loans, how much to borrow, tips on repaying a loan successfully, the consequences of default, and other helpful hints on how to manage student loan debt.

The Smart Student Guide to Financial Aid – [finaid.org](http://finaid.org).

[Mapping Your Future](#)

You may complete student loan Entrance and Exit Counseling at this site. You will also find budgeting and other helpful information.

<https://www.ecmc.org/students/index.html>

This website provides information and tools to help in paying for school, tips for life while in school, and resources for managing finances.

[Virginia College Savings Plan](#)

This website offers savings options to help plan for college. Contact the plan administrator directly for more information. With four different savings plans, VCSP gives more options to more people. On this site are the tools, information, and comparisons to evaluate and choose the plan that best suits your budget and savings style.

## **Scholarships**

[www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)

Since 1998, this web site has helped students find free money for college.

[www.schoolsoup.com](http://www.schoolsoup.com)

Web site provides students with the most scholarships and other financial aid options on the internet.

[Scholarship Experts](#)

Also see the information on page 9 of this handbook.

## **Financial Literacy**

[Personal Finance 101](#)

This website from the US Department of Education provides helpful information and links is geared toward college students.

[360 degrees of Financial Literacy](#)

From the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants' web site, a source of financial information for all life stages, including college students.

**\*We thank our colleagues at Emory & Henry College for allowing Mary Baldwin to adapt their financial aid handbook.**