Financial Aid Information

It is never too soon to think about how you will pay for your graduate education.

Financial aid for Master of Science in Education (MSEd) students is handled by Student Financial Services.

For more information and answers to questions, contact Student Financial Services by phone or on the web:

www.northwestern.edu/sfs
gradfinaid@northwestern.edu
(847) 491-8950

Prospective matriculated students should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid Form (FAFSA) around the same time as completing the MSEd application. Northwestern’s financial aid process can be completed only after your acceptance into the MSEd program.

Matriculated students are eligible for federal loans only if they are registered for two or more units. Matriculated students registered for less than two units may be eligible for alternative loans.

Non-matriculated students are not eligible for federal loans but can apply for alternative loans.

Once accepted, you will want to submit the Confirmation of Intention to Register form to the MSEd office ASAP (at least six to eight weeks prior to the first quarter that will be covered by the loan). Financial aid officers add students to the tracking system AFTER the registrar's office adds them to the registration system. Financial aid applications are processed in order, based upon the date materials are received and recorded. The earlier you submit the form, the better!

Loan Options

1. Subsidized Stafford loans up to $8500/yr (1yr=3 quarters, you may apply for more aid after 3 quarters)
2. Unsubsidized Stafford loans up to $10,000/yr. (1yr=3 quarters, you may apply for more aid after 3 quarters) The amount is $18,500 if student does not use Subsidized Stafford loans.
3. Perkins loans up to $1,500/quarter
4. Alternative loans like CitiAssist

Application Process for Prospective Matriculated Students - if planning to take 2 or more classes per quarter

Prior to Acceptance

1. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form: www.fafsa.ed.gov
2. Submit the completed FAFSA application electronically to NU (code #E00617)
3. Call the Office of Student Financial Services (847/491-8950) to confirm the receipt of your FAFSA

Note: This analysis may take several weeks and must be complete before the NU Financial Aid Office can determine eligibility.

After Acceptance

4. To get general information about financial aid, go to the student loans website at: www.studentloans.northwestern.edu/

To get information about different types of loans and to download loan forms click on “Northwestern Loans”.

5. Review the loan checklist at: www.tgs.northwestern.edu/financialaid/studentloans/forms/

6. To apply for loans, go to: www.studentloans.northwestern.edu/services.html
Follow the instructions.

7. If filing a paper application, submit completed application and signed Master Promissory Note (MPN) to:
   Student Financial Services
   555 Clark St., 1st Floor,
   Evanston, IL 60208
   Fax # (847) 467-2451

8. Complete an entrance counseling session (see Loan Checklist)

9. The easiest and fastest method to check on the status of your financial aid is to log onto Northwestern’s student services website, CAESAR:
www.northwestern.edu/caesar

Note: You must have a NetID and password in order to log onto CAESAR. See “Checklist for New Students” form in acceptance packet. Contact the MSEd office with questions (847) 467-1458.

10. Complete any “To Do” items listed on CAESAR, such as the Stafford Loan Entrance Interview online

11. Check that loans have been applied to your account by selecting the following Menu options within CAESAR: For Students, Financial Services, View My Account

12. IF CAESAR does not answer your questions about how aid has been applied to your account, call (847) 491-8950 for further information

13. Once all previous steps are complete, email specific questions to gradfinaid@northwestern.edu
Application Process for Prospective Matriculated Students - if planning to take only 1 class per quarter

This is the same process for Non-Matriculated Students – Please see below...

Application Process for Prospective Non-Matriculated Students

After Acceptance

1. Apply to alternative loan programs such as CitiAssist online:
   www.citiassist.com
   www.accessgroup.org
   www.keybank.com
   www.salliemae.com/content/landing/signature/signature.html OR
   www.salliemae.com

2. Follow steps 10-13 above

FOR MORE INFORMATION
FAFSA: www.fafsa.org
Student Financial Services:
www.northwestern.edu/sfs
847/491-8950
gradfinaid@northwestern.edu

Additional Sources for Financial Aid

Hispanic Scholarship Fund
Information about scholarships for students of Hispanic heritage. (www.HSF.net)

American Association of University Women
The AAUW Educational Foundation supports aspiring scholars, teachers and activists. (www.aauw.org)

Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC)
Students who are planning to be teachers in Illinois may be eligible for the Illinois Future Teacher Corps Program. (www.collegezone.com)

For an additional database of available Scholarships:
http://www.tgs.northwestern.edu/financialaid/fellowshipsandscholarships/multiculturalfunding/mascholarships/

Financial Aid/Scholarship Databases:
• www.fastweb.org
• www.collegeanswer.com
• Coalition to Increase Minority Degrees:
  http://mati.eas.asu.edu:8421/hyperamp/db.html

Loan Forgiveness:
Teachers may not need to pay back the entire balance on student loans. For more information visit:
studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/teachercancel.jsp

We hope this guide will be helpful. Please understand, it is not a substitute for any specific guidelines, instructions or requirements relating to your application and processing of financial aid. Please make sure you carefully review all instructions, deadlines, etc. imposed by Student Financial Services and posted on their website:
www.northwestern.edu/sfs

Master of Science in Education Guide to: Financial Aid

Master of Science in Education
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