



**Office for Student
Financial Affairs**

Division of Student Affairs

UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

2008-2009 Financial Aid Award

Dear Student:

We are pleased to offer you the aid listed in the enclosed AWARD LETTER. We have considered your eligibility for scholarships, grants, loans, and part-time employment, and this notice represents the best award possible, given our available funds and guidelines for each program. This award reflects our confidence in your ability to complete your college studies. How well you use these resources will have a significant effect on your success at the University of Florida (UF).

This pamphlet contains important information about your financial aid award, including specific information about your obligations when you receive aid. *You will learn how to accept this award, how to report additional outside resources, and important facts about how you will receive your financial aid.*

FOR YOUR OWN BENEFIT, PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO READ THIS ENTIRE PAMPHLET CAREFULLY, AND THEN KEEP IT WITH YOUR OTHER FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION FOR FUTURE REFERENCE. Please understand that if you refuse any of the aid listed on the enclosed award letter, the university is not required to replace that aid with funds from other programs.

If you still have questions after reading this information, contact a financial aid adviser for further assistance.

We wish you success in achieving your academic goals.

Sincerely,

Karen L. Fooks
Director

Use ISIS to check the status of your aid. Use our Web site for general financial aid info.

ISIS

The status of your financial aid file is available on the UF Web site through ISIS (UF's Integrated Student Information System). Go to:

www.isis.ufl.edu

In the left menu, under "Financial Aid," choose "Aid Status" or "Awards and Disbursements" for the correct year.

On ISIS you can complete many other transactions as well, such as accepting your Federal Direct Loan, completing Federal Direct Loan Entrance Counseling and Student Loan Exit Counseling, printing verification forms and other financial aid documents, reporting additional aid you are receiving, updating your address with UF, and signing up for Direct Deposit of your aid.

SFA's Web Site

Student Financial Affairs' (SFA) Web site includes current information on financial aid programs and applying for and receiving financial aid.

On the site you will also find features such as our Financial Aid 101 tutorial, a Scholarship Finder, SFA NEWS, specific information for Prospective Students, Current Students, Graduate/Professional Students, and Parents, plus links to free scholarship searches and other UF sites.

Go to: www.sfa.ufl.edu

I. YOUR FINANCIAL AID PACKAGE

Your award package for the 2008-09 academic year was developed according to federal, state, and institutional regulations to help meet your financial need for the period August 2008 through August 2009. **All awards depend on available funds and are based on full-time enrollment. UF has the right to change or cancel awards if: funds are unavailable, your application contains incorrect data, your financial situation changes, or you do not enroll full-time.**

If there is a change in your eligibility, you will receive a revised award. Revised award notices and other important financial aid mail will be sent electronically to your GatorLink email address. Be sure your GatorLink address is up to date in the UF Directory and correctly configured to receive UF business correspondence. Some correspondence is sent through the U.S. Postal Service; therefore, **you must also keep your "Local Home Mailing Address" and your "Permanent Home Mailing Address" up to date in the UF Directory.**

ISIS. All students should keep track of their financial aid file and awards through ISIS under "Financial Aid" on UF's ISIS Web site at www.isis.ufl.edu. Be sure to select the correct award year.

Please read this entire pamphlet. YOU have the final responsibility for being aware of all eligibility requirements and application procedures. Keep copies of this and all financial aid information.

II. FINANCIAL AID ADVISERS

If you have a question about your award or need financial assistance, contact your financial aid adviser in S-107 Criser Hall between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, or call (352) 392-1275.

III. UNDERSTANDING YOUR AWARD LETTER

Accept, Cancel, or Reduce Your Award

To accept, cancel, or reduce your aid award, read the *Financial Aid Programs* and *Receiving Your Aid* sections of this guide; then go to ISIS at www.isis.ufl.edu. Under "Financial Aid" select "Awards and Disbursements" for 2008-09. Follow the "Award Instructions" there for Accepting, Canceling, or Reducing your aid. Also on ISIS go to the "Financial Aid Status" page for 2008-09 to complete all requirements to receive the aid you have been awarded. Keep the enclosed Award Letter for your records.

Update Your Award (Includes Instructions)

You Must Report Aid Not Listed:

If you are receiving aid not listed on your award letter (including aid from private organizations, foundations, the State of Florida, UF colleges and departments, and any awards paid directly to you), go to ISIS, select "Additional Aid Reporting" under 2008-09, and list the aid. After you submit information on ISIS, allow up to two business days for the information to update. You will receive notification of your revised award from us via email to your GatorLink account. Check the new award to confirm that all changes were made correctly. If additional awards you report cause your need to be overmet, adjustments to current awards may be necessary.

If You Are Graduating in December:

If you will graduate in December 2008 and will not be enrolled in spring 2009, you must cancel your aid for the spring semester. To cancel, go to ISIS under Awards and Disbursements and choose "I will not attend Spring 2009." If you will graduate and plan to reenroll, please contact your financial aid adviser.

To Appeal Your Aid Award:

If you think we have overlooked an aspect of your financial situation that would affect our evaluation of your need, you are entitled to an appeal. Contact your financial aid adviser in S-107 Criser Hall. March 1—June 1 is the time period to petition your aid award.

If You Want Summer Aid:

Limited funds are available for the summer semester. If you wish to receive aid summer semester you must contact a financial aid adviser. To receive aid summer *in addition to* fall and spring semesters, you must contact a financial aid adviser **before March 15.**

"Predicted" Awards (Includes Important Instructions)

ATTENTION: Awards listed on your award letter as "Predicted" are only predictions of what you may be eligible to receive: they are NOT official award commitments. You must meet all program eligibility requirements to receive a disbursement from any predicted award.

- If a **Predicted Florida Student Assistance Grant** is part of your award, we have used information from your *FAFSA* and the state of Florida to predict this grant based on full-time enrollment. You must meet all eligibility criteria to be disbursed funds.
- If a **Predicted Florida Bright Futures (Florida Academic, Florida Medallion, or Florida Gold Seal) or a Robert Byrd, Jose Marti, Rosewood, or Children of Deceased and Disabled Veteran's Scholarship** is part of your award, we have used information from the UF admissions files and state of Florida to predict that you may be eligible. Determination of eligibility is made by the Florida Department of Education. The actual amount you receive will be calculated after the Drop/Add period of each semester.
- If a **Predicted Federal Pell Grant** is part of your award, we have predicted this award based on full-time status and information from your *FAFSA*. The actual amount you receive will depend on your enrollment status and on the *expected family contribution* listed on your *Federal Student Aid Report*. Your award will be calculated after the Drop/Add period of each term.
- If a **Predicted Federal Academic Competitiveness Grant** is part of your award, we have predicted this award based on information from your *FAFSA* and UF's Office of the University Registrar. Final eligibility determination for each semester's award will be made after the Drop/Add period of each term.
- If a **Predicted National SMART Grant** is part of your award, we have predicted this award based on information from your *FAFSA* and the UF's Office of the University Registrar. Final eligibility for each semester's award will be made after Drop/Add each term.
- If a **Predicted Presidential, UF Gold, UF Platinum, or Opportunity Scholarship** is part of your award, we have used information from the UF Admissions Office to predict that you may be eligible. Final determination of recipients will be made by the UF Honors Office.
- If a **Predicted National Merit or Achievement Award** is listed as part of your award, we have used information from the UF Admissions Office to predict that you may be eligible. Final determination of recipients will be made by the UF Honors Office.
- If a **Predicted Federal Direct Stafford Loan** is part of your award, we have predicted the award based on information on your *FAFSA*. Predicted loans do not need to be accepted; however, if you do not want the loan, cancel it on ISIS under "Awards and Disbursements." Fall Stafford Loans are processed starting in June. When your loan is processed, you will receive a new award notification, and you must Accept, Reduce, or Cancel the award on ISIS. If you do not accept loans, we are not obligated to replace the funds with other aid to help you meet educational costs.

VI. FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

Following is a brief description of programs that may appear on your award letter. For more information, refer to the *Gator Aid Handbook* and other information available on our Web site at: www.sfa.ufl.edu.

Grants

Grants are awarded to undergraduates with the greatest financial need. They do not have to be repaid.

• Federal Pell Grant

The Federal Pell Grant program is the largest federally funded undergraduate grant program. Your award is based on your enrollment status and on your *expected family contribution* as determined by a federally established formula. Awards range from \$400 to \$4,925 per academic year.

• Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)

SEOG is a federally funded grant program awarded by the Office for Student Financial Affairs (SFA) to undergraduates who demonstrate exceptional financial need. Awards generally range from \$100 to \$4,000 per academic year.

• Federal Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG)

The ACG is a federally funded undergraduate program. Eligibility includes being a Federal PELL Grant recipient, completion of a rigorous high school program, high school graduation after January 1, 2005, a first- or second-year student in a degree-seeking program, and full-time enrollment in a two- or four-year degree program. Students in their second academic year must have obtained a college cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0. Awards range from \$200 to \$1,350.

• National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent (SMART) Grant

The SMART Grant is a federally funded undergraduate program. Eligibility includes being a Federal PELL Grant recipient, a third- or fourth-year student in a degree-seeking program, full-time enrollment in an eligible major, enrollment in at least one course specific to the qualifying major each term, and a college cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0. The maximum award per academic year is \$4,000.

• Florida Student Assistance Grant (FSAG)

FSAG is a need-based, state grant program for undergraduate students attending eligible Florida institutions. Recipients must meet Florida residency requirements for state student aid and be enrolled in eligible academic degree programs. Awards range from \$200 to \$1,808 per academic year.

• I. Douglas Turner Grant

This UF-funded grant program is awarded by SFA to undergraduates who demonstrate exceptional financial need. Awards range from \$100 to \$4,000 per academic year.

• UF Graduate and Professional Grants

These UF-funded grants are awarded by SFA to graduate and professional students who demonstrate exceptional financial need. Awards range from \$100 to \$2,000 per academic year.

Scholarships

Scholarships are awards that are based on grades, financial need, or special criteria and do not have to be repaid. Students do not have to work or perform service to receive scholarship funds.

• Florida Bright Futures Scholarship

This State of Florida scholarship program has three awards: the Florida Academic Scholars Award; the Florida Medallion Scholars Award; and the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award. Each award has different academic eligibility criteria and offers a different amount based upon enrollment. The top-ranked scholar from each school district receives an additional award of up to \$1,500 called the **Florida Top Scholar's Award**.

• National Merit Scholarships

The UF Office of Admissions awards academic scholarships to incoming freshmen and transfer students based on academic ability and achievement.

• UF Admissions Office Scholarships

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• State of Florida Scholarships

The State of Florida Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) administers the Robert Byrd Honors Scholarship, the Jose Marti Scholarship, the Rosewood Scholarship, and the Children of Deceased and Disabled Veterans' Scholarship. Each program has specific eligibility requirements, application procedures, award amounts, and renewal requirements. For more information visit the OSFA Web site at: <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/home/uamain.htm>.

• Florida Opportunity Scholarship

This scholarship program is awarded by SFA to undergraduate students who are first-generation, first time in college, Florida residents who apply by the March 15 "on-time" deadline and meet specific income guidelines. Awards amounts vary depending on the student's need determined from the FAFSA.

• SFA-Administered Scholarships

Privately funded scholarships are available through the University and awarded by SFA. Scholarships are awarded based on guidelines provided by donors. The value ranges from \$200 to \$2,500 per academic year. Full-time enrollment is required to receive funds. A complete list of these scholarships is available on the SFA Web site at: www.sfa.ufl.edu.

Student Loans

Most long-term student loans have low interest rates that range from 4% to 9% and offer deferred repayment provisions. Borrowing money for college is a serious financial obligation, and students should carefully consider the amount of debt they incur. In addition to principal borrowed, interest is charged for use of funds. Current rates and other information on federal loans is available through the U.S. Department of Education at: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSFAP/DirectLoan/faq.html>

• Federal Direct Loan Program

The Direct Loan Program consists of the Federal Direct Subsidized Stafford, the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford, and the Federal Direct PLUS loan programs. To receive a Federal Direct Loan, you must be enrolled at least half-time.

Federal Direct Subsidized Stafford Loans. These loans are need-based, federally subsidized, low-interest loans which have repayment deferred until after you graduate, withdraw, or enroll less than half-time. Interest is paid by the federal government until the end of a six-month grace period after you graduate, withdraw, or drop to less than half-time

enrollment. For new loans made to undergraduate borrowers this program has a fixed interest rate of 6%. For graduate borrowers this program has a fixed interest rate of 6.8%. All borrowers are charged a 2% origination fee at disbursement. For more information, go to www.dl.ed.gov.

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loans. Unsubsidized Loans are not based on need. “Unsubsidized” means that the interest is not deferred while in school. The interest rate is fixed at 6.8% with a 2% origination fee. For more information, go to www.dl.ed.gov.

Federal Direct PLUS/Graduate PLUS Program. Eligible graduate students and parents of dependent undergraduate students may borrow up to the cost of education minus other financial aid through the PLUS Program. There are no aggregate loan limits. Borrowers cannot have an adverse credit history. For new borrowers this program has a fixed interest rate of 7.9%. A 4% origination fee is charged at disbursement. Repayment begins within 60 days after final loan disbursement, unless the borrower is eligible for deferment. Borrowers must complete a PLUS or Graduate PLUS application, available at: <http://www.sfa.ufl.edu/pub/forms.html>.

- **Federal Perkins Loans**

This federal loan program is awarded by SFA to students with the greatest financial need. Undergraduates may borrow up to \$4,000 a year up to an aggregate total of \$20,000. Interest of 5% begins to accrue when the loan becomes due after a nine-month grace period. The minimum monthly repayment is \$40 per mo.

- **University of Florida Long-Term Loans**

SFA awards these university and/or private donor, need-based loans, including the Student Aid for Education Loan, the Meril S. Beers Loan, the Cora B. Pilling Loan, the John G. and Fannie F. Ruge Memorial Loan, the Hart R. Stringfellow Loan, and the Arthur L. Wallace Loan. Award amounts vary from \$500 to \$3,500 annually, and interest rates range from 4% to 9%. UF may require a minimum repayment of \$30 per month. These loans require co-signers.

Employment

Part-time jobs through the Federal Work-Study (FWS) and Other Personnel Services (OPS) programs require an overall 2.0 grade point average. Students work 10-20 hours a week, earn at least minimum wage, and are paid for hours worked on a biweekly schedule. Students can access available jobs by going to jobs.ufl.edu. *UF Work Permits* are required for both programs. To obtain a *UF Work Permit* go to S-107 Criser Hall; or call (352) 392-0296. For more information on jobs, go to: www.sfa.ufl.edu/programs/studentemployment.html.

- **Federal Work-Study (FWS)**

FWS is a federally funded, need-based, student work program (including the Federal Community Service component) which is awarded by SFA.

- **Other Personnel Services (OPS)**

OPS employment is an institutionally and state-funded program which is not based on financial need. Application for this program is open year-round.

VII. ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

Most aid programs require students to be enrolled at least half-time; however, due to limited funds, priority is given to full-time students. Federal Pell Grants and Florida Bright Futures

awards are prorated according to enrollment status. Students who enroll less than full-time may have their aid adjusted after the drop/add period. Please refer to the following chart for minimum enrollment eligibility requirements.

CLASSIFICATION	FULL-TIME		HALF-TIME	
	Fall/Spring	Summer	Fall/Spring	Summer
Undergraduate / Post Baccalaureate	12	12	6	6
Graduate	9	8	5	4
Law	10	5	5	3
Professional	1	1	1	1

VIII. RECEIVING YOUR AID

Address Policy

You are responsible for keeping your current “UF Business Email Address,” your “Local Home Mailing Address,” AND your “Permanent Home Mailing Address” up to date in the UF Directory. Update these at my.ufl.edu under “My Account.” Financial aid proceeds will be mailed to your local home address if direct deposit has not been established.

Tuition/Fee Deferment

Deferments are granted automatically for students who have an award on file at SFA and do not owe tuition/fees from a previous term. Fees are deferred *until receipt of financial aid or until the deferred payment deadline, whichever comes first.* If you have questions about your eligibility for a fee deferment, check with SFA or check your deferment status on ISIS at www.isis.ufl.edu. On ISIS under “Financial Aid,” choose “Aid Status.”

Disbursement

Students generally receive financial aid by direct deposit or by mail from University Financial Services (UFS) in S-108 Criser Hall. UFS disburses aid only after verifying enrollment status and making sure students have no financial or academic holds on their records. **All unpaid tuition/fees, housing charges, and other UF debts (such as but not limited to lab fees, infirmary charges, and library fines) are deducted from students’ financial aid before disbursement.** To decline automatic payment of UF accounts receivable charges (lab fees, infirmary charges, etc.) from your financial aid, contact UFS Disbursements at (352) 392-0737; *please note—this MAY delay disbursement of your aid.* Financial aid may **not** be used to pay prior-term tuition fees.

1. **Direct Deposit of Aid to Your Bank Account by UFS**

Most students receive their financial aid funds from UFS by direct deposit—after classes begin and as soon as their aid is available. To sign up, go to ISIS at: www.isis.ufl.edu. Under “Financial Services,” choose “EFT Sign Up.” Authorization becomes effective immediately. You can also use “EFT Sign Up” to change your banking information any time it changes, also effective immediately. For more information on direct deposit contact UFS in S-108 Criser Hall.

2. **From UFS by Mail**

For students who have not signed up for direct deposit, UFS mails financial aid checks directly to the local home mailing address in the UF Directory after classes begin and as soon as aid is available. UFS mails Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan checks to parent borrowers after verifying the student’s enrollment.

Important Disbursement Information

- **First-time Borrower Entrance Counseling**

Before loans can be disbursed, first-time Federal Direct Loan and Federal Perkins Loan borrowers must complete Entrance Counseling. Federal Direct Loan borrowers must go to ISIS at

www.isis.ufl.edu. Under "Financial Services," select "Entrance Counseling, Direct Loan." First-time Perkins Loan borrowers are mailed information by UFS about completing online Entrance Counseling. For more information, contact UFS at (352) 392-0737.

• **Federal Direct Stafford Loan Acceptance**

Stafford Loan borrowers must "accept" each term's award on ISIS (www.isis.ufl.edu) before their funds can be released. Under "Financial Aid" for 2008-09, choose "Awards & Disbursements." Do this early to get your funds at the beginning of the term. Students may also reduce or cancel Stafford Loans on ISIS. See SFA's Web site at www.sfa.ufl.edu/receiving/disbursement.html for more complete information on loan processing and disbursement.

• **Federal Perkins Loan Disclosure/Acceptance**

Perkins borrowers must complete disclosure statements and accept each term's award before their funds for that term can be released. Perkins Loan "disclosures" are completed on ISIS (www.isis.ufl.edu) under "Financial Aid" under "Aid Status." Perkins Loan "acceptance" is done on ISIS under "Financial Aid" under "Awards and Disbursements." For information contact University Financial Services in S-113 Criser.

• **Federal Direct Stafford Loan Master Promissory Notes**

Previous Direct Stafford Loan borrowers should already have a *Master Promissory Note* (MPN) on file. New borrowers who do not have an MPN on file must go to the *Federal Direct Loan Master Promissory Note* Web site at dlenote.ed.gov to complete one.

• **Federal Direct PLUS Loan Master Promissory Notes**

New Parent PLUS and Graduate PLUS borrowers who do not have a *PLUS Master Promissory Note* (MPN) on file must go to the *Federal Direct Loan Master Promissory Note* Web site at dlenote.ed.gov to complete one.

• **Promissory Notes for UF Long-Term Loan Borrowers**

Borrowers of a UF Long-Term Loan will receive a promissory note by mail from UFS. Promissory notes must be signed and returned to S-108 Criser Hall before the loans can be disbursed through the mailout procedure.

• **Federal Work-Study**

If **Federal Work-Study** (FWS) is part of your financial aid, you will be paid for hours worked on a biweekly schedule, in accordance with the UF payroll schedule.

IX. VERIFICATION/QUALITY ASSURANCE

"Verification" is a process of confirming data supplied by the applicant and/or parents to the Federal government. UF participates in the federal Quality Assurance Program, a program that allows us to establish our own verification criteria and determine which student files must be verified. Because of this, you may ignore any statement on your *Federal Student Aid Report* that you are being verified. If your application is selected for verification by UF, you will receive an e-mail from us explaining what documents to provide. Do not submit any documents unless we request that you do so. If your application is verified, aid funds cannot be disbursed to you until you have submitted all requested documents and the accuracy of your information has been reviewed. This process can take six weeks or more.

X. ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Students receiving federal financial aid are required to maintain satisfactory academic progress. A copy of UF's **financial aid academic progress** policy is printed on SFA's Web site at www.sfa.ufl.edu/receiving/academicprogress.html and in the *Gator Aid Handbook*. This policy and academic progress petition

information and forms may be printed from ISIS or our Web site or obtained from financial aid advisers in S-107 Criser.

XI. WITHDRAWAL & REFUNDS

Students who wish to withdraw must follow UF's official withdrawal policy. Detailed UF procedures, coordinated by the Dean of Students Office, can be found on the SFA Web site at: www.sfa.ufl.edu/receiving/withdrawalrefund.html.

If you officially withdraw or stop attending all courses, you may be required to repay all or part of the financial aid disbursed to you in the term you withdraw. All students must earn 75% of all hours attempted to remain eligible for financial aid.

Students receiving federal funds may be required to repay aid determined to be "unearned." The earned/unearned calculation is based on the percentage of days you attended during the term in which you withdrew. The amount of aid you have earned is determined on a pro-rata basis. That is, if you completed 30 percent of the term you withdrew, you earn 30 percent of the federal aid you received. Once you have completed 60 percent of the term, you are considered to have earned all of your aid.

The difference between your earned federal aid and 100 percent equals the percentage of unearned federal funds that are subject to repayment. Federal regulations require Title IV aid to be refunded in the following order:

1. Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loans
2. Federal Direct Subsidized Stafford Loans
3. Federal Perkins Loans
4. Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loans
5. Federal Direct PLUS Loans (for parents)
6. Federal Pell Grants
7. Federal Academic Competitiveness Grants (ACG)
8. National SMART Grant
9. Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants

Any loan funds that you must return, you (or your parent for a PLUS Loan) may repay in accordance with the terms of your promissory note. That is, you make scheduled payments to the holder of the loan over a period of time. For grants, the law provides that you return 50% of any grant you receive that is your responsibility to repay. Any amount you do have to return is a grant overpayment, and you must make arrangements with UF or the U.S. Department of Education to return the funds.

Please Note:

- (1) You may also be required to repay other federal, state, institutional, or private student financial aid programs based on the terms and conditions associated with those programs.
- (2) UF is required to return to the applicable federal program account the unearned percentage of institutional charges (tuition, fees, on-campus housing). You may be billed by UF for any funds returned on your behalf.
- (3) UF's tuition refund policy is separate from the federal requirement to return unearned aid. Whether or not you receive a tuition/fee refund has no bearing on the amount you must repay under this formula.

Refunds

If, due to withdrawal, cancellation, or termination of attendance, you are entitled to a refund of tuition/fees (determined by University Financial Services) or campus housing charges (determined by the Housing & Residence Education) and you received aid for the same payment period, part of your refund will be returned to the appropriate federal Title IV or institutional account. After accounts from which you received aid are reimbursed, any amount remaining will be returned to you.