


Financial Aid Handbook

Dickinson College
2023-24

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This booklet is designed to answer many of the questions students and their families ask about Dickinson

Dickinson grant and scholarship funds are available only to full, matriculated students working on their first bachelor's degree. Some federal and state programs may be available for part-time students and those working on a second degree.

In order to be considered independent for federal and state purposes for the 2023-2024 academic year, you must meet the [Federal definition](#) of an independent student.

Dickinson College will review a student's independent status for institutional aid purposes on a case-by-case basis. For Dickinson grant purposes, students who turn 24, marry, or have children after their initial acceptance as dependent students will continue to be treated as dependent on the resources of their parents.

In addition to financial aid programs for students, there are several financing options available to parents. Information on the Nelnet Campus Commerce monthly payment plan, parent loans, and student private loans is available on the [college's website](#).

Applicants admitted as First Year students are eligible to receive Dickinson grant or scholarship aid for up to eight semesters of attendance. The eight-semester limit includes any enrolled semesters spent off-campus in non-Dickinson programs, as well as enrolled semesters in which a student does not receive or apply for financial assistance. Transfer students are limited to the number of semesters needed to complete their degrees as determined at the time of enrollment. For example, a student admitted as a first semester sophomore would be eligible to receive aid for six semesters of attendance.

Although eligibility is usually based on family information, the student is the aid recipient. The Office of Financial Aid staff members normally direct correspondence to the student rather than to the parents. Our primary means of contact is through Dickinson College email addresses. It is vital that the student understand the financial aid process and take an active role with their annual application. (See information regarding [FERPA](#), the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, available on the Dickinson College webpage in the Registrar's Office section.) Students may enable [Proxy Access](#) for other individuals, such as their parents, by providing a valid email address for the desiy0sv 612 7ss and take

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and State Bureaus of Vocational Rehabilitation or from parents' employers in the form of tuition remission or tuition assistance. Such benefits will be taken into consideration when determining the financial aid offer.

The financial aid offer will list all the financial aid programs for which the student is eligible. The amount of financial aid that the student receives from these programs depends on the student's need. The amount of Dickinson grant and scholarship aid may also be influenced by the academic achievement and promise of the applicant.

Students' financial need is recalculated for each year of attendance; as a result, awarded amounts of need-based aid may vary as need changes. The College attempts to maintain approximately the same amount of Dickinson grant funds from year to year unless financial need changes significantly. The student should submit a Profile application if additional assistance is being requested as a result of a change in family circumstances. See also sections [8. Does The Amount Of Aid Ever Change?](#) and [10. What Are The Aid Limitations?](#) for more information.

Gifts which do not have to be repaid. Gift aid comes from several sources: federal and state governments, colleges, and private organizations. In most cases, grants are based on financial need while scholarships are based on academic achievement or talent. Dickinson is an NCAA Division III school; we cannot award scholarship assistance based on athletic performance, talent or promise.

are conferred upon a limited number of the most highly qualified incoming [first year students](#) and [transfer students](#), without regard to financial need. Eligibility for these merit-based tuition scholarships is determined by the Admissions committee based upon the admission application. ~~For first~~ year students are renewable for three additional years, for a total of eight (8) semesters. Awards for transfer students are limited to the number of semesters needed to complete their degrees as determined at the time of enrollment.

Award amounts will not change during the standard ~~fall~~ spring term on campus or in a Dickinson study abroad program unless 1) grant assistance from all sources exceeds Cost of Attendance, 2) the student registers for less than a full-time course load, or 3) the student fails to maintain a 3.0 cumulative average.

Should the cumulative GPA fall below 3.0, the student will be required to meet with the Financial Aid Office to discuss options for maintaining eligibility for future awards.

stipend from the need analysis formula, ROTC candidates may be eligible for federal aid and Pennsylvania students may be eligible for the state grant. In some cases, the amount of aid an ROTC cadet receives may exceed our cost of attendance.

The book allowance and monthly subsistence allowance are not deducted from the Dickinson College billing statement (prepared by the Office of Student Accounts) since these awards are paid directly to the student. As a result, a student may owe money to the college despite receipt of financial assistance equal to the total cost of attendance (direct charges plus the standard financial aid allowance for books and living expenses).

Dickinson grant assistance is not available to ROTC students studying abroad - Dickinson Program (See Section [12 Are Off-Campus Programs Covered?](#)) Interested students should contact Dickinson College's ROTC Office (717-245-1221) for additional information about this program.

Yellow Ribbon is a provision of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008. Yellow Ribbon permits qualified veterans (or dependents whom the benefits have been assigned) to receive an education benefit more than the standard \$27,120.05 maximum for 2021. As a participating institution, Dickinson College meets 50% of the remaining tuition and fee expense with grant and/or scholarship, the other 50% will be met by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Students also receive stipends from the VA for housing, books and supplies. Students interested in taking advantage of this program should send us a copy of their Certificate of Eligibility from the VA. Only individuals determined by the VA to be eligible at the 100% benefit rate (based on service requirements) may receive Yellow Ribbon Program funding.

Loans are disbursed in two installments, half for the fall semester and half for the spring semester. Repayment begins six months after the borrower ceases at least half enrollment. Loan repayment may be deferred if the borrower is in school, unemployed, or suffering economic hardship. The interest rate for loans disbursed between 7/1/2023 and 6/30/2024 is 5.50%

ensure that eligible students, regardless of calculated need, will be able to obtain a student loan. The terms for this loan are the same as for the Federal Direct Subsidized Loan (see above) except that interest accrues on the outstanding balance from the time it is disbursed until the loan is paid in full. The student may pay the interest as it accrues (recommended) or the interest will capitalize and be added to the principal of the loan upon repayment. The maximum total amount a dependent undergraduate can borrow is \$30,000 of which \$23,000 may be subsidized.

All students receiving a Federal Direct Loan may be eligible to borrow an additional \$2,000 per year in Federal Unsubsidized Direct Loan funds.

are available to students who are independent of their parents (according to Federal criteria) or whose parents are denied eligibility for the PLUS Loan. The maximum annual amount available is \$5,000 for first year students and sophomores and \$7,500 for juniors and seniors. Interest rates, origination fees, and loan terms are the same as for the Unsubsidized Direct Loan. The maximum total amount of Direct Loans for qualifying students may borrow is \$57,500.

allows parents to finance part or all of a student's educational costs. Students must file a FAFSA before a PLUS Loan can be processed. Annual borrowing is limited only by the cost of education minus other financial aid, although parents with a [poor credit rating](#) may be denied eligibility. An origination fee is deducted from the loan proceeds, and repayment begins 30 days of loan disbursement. The interest rate for 2023-24 is 8.05%. The origination fee of 4.228% is in effect until October 1, 2024.

Though federal loans have a fixed interest rate for the life of the loan, the rate for new loans changes each academic year. Students and parents who take advantage of these loans several years likely will have a different, fixed interest rate for each year. The interest rate will remain the same on each loan until the loan is paid off or consolidated. The interest rate for new loans is determined each year based on the 10-year Treasury bill as of May each year.

increasing repayment to unaffordable levels. We recommend that students discuss their situation with their financial aid counselor to make certain that a private loan is the best available option for their situation.

The federal student loan programs are attractive because no collateral is required to negotiate them. The US Government assures repayment of the loan if the student borrower dies or becomes permanently disabled. The federal direct

The [Nelnet Campus Commerce](#) payment plan allows you to spread out your fall semester balance over five months or three months and spread out your spring semester balance over five months or three months for a small fee of \$0.00 per semester enrollment. For fall enrollments families may contact Nelnet Campus Commerce as early as May to set up a 5 month payment plan which runs from June 1 through October 1. *The fall enrollment deadline is August 3rd.* For spring enrollments families may contact Nelnet Campus Commerce as early as October to set up a 5 month payment plan which runs from November 1 through March 1. *The spring enrollment deadline is December 31.* For further information on important plan dates, please visit the [Nelnet Campus Commerce website](#)



Most financial aid is credited once a semester directly to the student's College account including funds received from College grants and scholarships, Federal Direct

The Office of Financial Aid may reduce or eliminate financial aid offers if the student receives additional assistance from an outside source. Financial aid offers also may be reduced if the family financial information reported on the application for financial aid is inaccurate. These changes are made to protect the equity of awarded packages and to conform to federal and/or state regulations. Application errors should be corrected at once to prevent unnecessary frustration and inconvenience.

A few families may need to use estimated data when filing financial aid applications. Estimates should be as accurate as possible. Any aid package awarded on estimated data will be considered tentative until the reconciliation process is completed and financial documentation has been received.

In future years, if there are no significant changes in financial circumstances (i.e. increase in income or family circumstances i.e. the number of siblings pursuing an undergraduate degree decreases), need-based aid from Dickinson should remain relatively constant. However, if income and/or assets increase and/or the number of siblings enrolled in an undergraduate program increases, need-based aid from Dickinson may be significantly reduced.

Dickinson grants may be revised if initial estimates of federal or state aid prove to be incorrect. If the federal or state grant is higher than estimated and need has been fully met, the College grant will be reduced so that the total amount of gift aid remains the same as in the original package. If the federal or state grant is lower than the estimate through no fault of the applicant, the Dickinson Grant will be increased. If the student did not apply, or if the application was late based on inaccurate data, the lost or reduced award will not be made up with college funds. Dickinson Grant funds will not be added to compensate for lost or reduced outside aid if a Dickinson Grant was not a part of the original package.

Outside awards, such as those received from the PTA or Elks Club must be reported to the Office of Financial Aid. Outside awards, when added to other financial aid awards received, will first fill any unmet need. Once need has been met, an adjustment will be made to the self-help portion of the package. For example, receipt of an outside scholarship of \$500 would result in a reduction of the recommended loan study by \$500 if the federally calculated need already has been fully met. **Except in cases where federal regulations require otherwise, Dickinson grants or scholarships will not be adjusted until all self-help has been replaced and an amount greater than the federal EFC has been earned in outside scholarships.** The Pennsylvania State Grant and other programs have their own caps on grants and scholarships. It is especially important that students receiving outside awards notify the Office of Financial Aid as early as possible so that necessary adjustments can be made before loans are processed.

Outside awards, such as those from foundations, community organizations, etc. must be reported to the Office of Financial Aid. These loans, when added to other financial aid awards received, will first fill any unmet need. Once need has been met, an adjustment will be made to the self-help portion of the package. Colleges and universities must take these loans into account when they have been approved because of the student's enrollment in postsecondary education. **Dickinson grants and scholarships will not be affected by receipt of a low-interest or interest-**

package. Eligibility for need-based aid is calculated on the resulting reduced need. Students receiving full tuition assistance or remission are not eligible for Dickinson grant assistance. **All tuition awards and tuition scholarships combined cannot exceed Dickinson's annual tuition charge.**

Note: Tuition Exchange (TE) awards are not treated as outside scholarships since Dickinson College funds these awards. Students eligible for two need-based tuition awards (TE and a merit award, for example) will receive the larger of the two awards. All tuition awards and tuition scholarships combined cannot exceed Dickinson's annual tuition charge.

Families experiencing significant reductions in income should contact the Office of Financial Aid for guidance. Additional federal, state and/or institutional funding may be available to help students whose families have experienced death, disability, unemployment, or similar circumstances. Reduced Income Form, [CSS PROFILE](#), signed federal tax returns and/or other documentation will be required to document the changed situation.

Students are expected to complete enough courses to move to a new grade level each year. Normally, students complete the B.A. or B.S. degree in four academic years by taking four courses per semester. Matriculated students complete at least 32 courses for graduation. First year students become sophomores after completing seven courses, sophomores fulfill graduation requirements. Sophomores become juniors after 15 courses, and juniors achieve senior status after 23 courses. Details concerning College policies on incomplete courses, withdrawals, and other academic matters can be found [in the Bulletin](#).

[Satisfactory academic progress](#) is measured at the end of each academic year through three components: quantitative measure, qualitative measure, and maximum time frame. For quantitative measurement, satisfactory academic progress will be measured by dividing the number of courses successfully completed by the number of courses attempted. Attempted courses include all withdrawals, incompletes, and failures. Students must successfully complete the following percentage of courses attempted:

- First-year students 60%
- Sophomores 60%
- Juniors, Senior 60%

For qualitative measurement, students also must meet a minimum grade point average for each level of study to remain in good standing at Dickinson. The minimum grade point average for a first-year student to be in good academic standing at the end of the academic year is 1.75. Sophomores must achieve a minimum of 2.0 for 1 year or a cumulative grade point

on academic probation and are not considered to be making academic progress under institutional policies and are ineligible to receive financial aid. See [the College Bulletin](#) for additional details.

A student who does not progress to the next grade level, or does not remain in good academic standing, may lose eligibility for some institutional, federal, and state aid programs. Eligibility will be reinstated once satisfactory academic progress is regained. In the interim, students can file a SAP appeal to be considered for federal financial aid as long as they can document extenuating circumstances and complete the Dickinson College SAP Appeal Form. The College's Financial Aid Appeal Committee will make a determination upon which a student will be notified. Their determination is final. If an appeal is denied, the Office of Financial Aid may be able to suggest alternative financing options which would enable the student to continue enrollment.

Dickinson students entering as first semester first-year students are eligible to receive Dickinson grant assistance for up to eight semesters of attendance. The eight semester limit includes any enrolled semesters spent off campus in non-Dickinson programs as well as enrolled semesters in which a student does not receive or apply for financial assistance. Transfer students are limited to the number of semesters initially determined to be needed to complete their course of study. For example, a student entering as a first semester sophomore would be eligible for institutional assistance for up to six semesters of attendance.

Students requesting a variance from this policy must submit an appeal in writing to the financial aid committee petitioning for an additional semester of assistance.

Dickinson grant assistance is not available for summer study other than as outlined in [Section 13. Is Summer Session Attendance Covered?](#)

Federal aid may be available to students who have exceeded their maximum number of semesters for institutional aid. A complete discussion of maximum aid eligibility in the federal financial aid programs can be found in the [Guide to Student Federal Aid](#). Students may receive federal financial aid at Dickinson College for an absolute maximum of six years of full-time study (48 attempted courses for part-time students).

On-time applications are given priority for institutional funds. Students who submit applications or other required supporting documents after the established deadlines may find that the remaining funding is inadequate for their needs. See [Section 5. What are the Deadlines?](#) for details. Dickinson grant assistance is provided to full-time, degree-seeking candidates only. Some federal and state programs are available to part-time, matriculated students. Continuing Education students are not eligible for financial aid unless they are pursuing teacher certification. These students may be eligible to borrow money through the Federal Direct Loan program. Students with questions about financial aid eligibility are encouraged to discuss their situation with their financial aid counselor.

Income earned from Federal Work-Study or institutional employment is subject to federal and state income taxes, as with any other earnings. Money received from grants and scholarships is not subject to Federal income taxation if grants and scholarships from all sources exceed the cost of tuition, fees, books, and required equipment and supplies. Money received from loans is not taxable. For more detailed information, contact the [Internal Revenue Service](#) or your personal tax advisor.

Grant and scholarship aid in excess of tuition may be subject to U.S. taxation unless the student's home country has a formal tax agreement with the U.S. government. For more information, please contact the [Center for Global Study and Engagement](#).

Students who attend any of the academic year programs administered by Dickinson College (Dickinson and Dickinson Partner Programs) or the Central Pennsylvania Consortium exchange programs are eligible to be considered for all forms of financial aid except for employment programs. Information on costs for these programs can be found on the Center for Global Study Engagement [website](#).

Students enrolled in non-Dickinson programs are not eligible to receive Dickinson Grant, Scholarship, Tuition Exchange, or Loan assistance, nor can Dickinson funds be used to pay the Dickinson Program Study Abroad Fee. They may be eligible for assistance from some federal (Pell Grant, Direct Loan) and state programs. A detailed description of the steps necessary to receive this aid is available in the Office of Financial Aid or on the [Dickinson Financial Aid web site](#). Students may arrange for the program charges to be

refunded to the student and/or the financial aid programs that have paid a portion of the student's costs. Any outstanding balance will be deducted from the refund due to the student.

Students who withdraw prior to the beginning of the first day of classes will receive a 100% refund, except for the nonrefundable enrollment deposit.

For students receiving financial aid, the following rules apply:

- A. Funds will be returned to financial aid programs before any funds are returned to the student.
- B. **Return of Title IV (Federal) Funds:** Funds received from the Federal financial aid programs will be aggregated and refunded to the programs using the same percentage as calculated above. After 60% of the semester has been completed, federal financial aid funds are viewed as "earned" in their entirety, and no refund will be made. Funds will be returned in the order prescribed by the US Department of Education: Unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan, Subsidized Federal Direct Loan, Federal PLUS Loans (any federal loans), Federal Pell Grants, and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants.

The College must notify a student, or, in the case of a Parent PLUS Loan, the College must notify the parent, in writing prior to making any post-withdrawal disbursement of loan funds, whether those loan funds are to be credited to the student's account or disbursed directly to the student or parent. The information provided in this notification must include the information necessary for the student or parent to make an informed decision as to whether the student or parent would like to accept any disbursement of loan funds, and must be provided within 30 days

Students may receive **additional loan funds**, with receipts, up to a combined maximum of \$3,000 for the following expenses:

- Laptop Computer and Case (and optional extended warranty) **OR--**
- Desktop Computer (and optional extended warranty) **OR--**
- Tablet Computer and Case (and optional extended warranty)
- External Hard Drive
- External Monitor
- Keyboard and Mouse
- Earphones or Headphones
- Printer/Scanner
- USB cable

Students who borrow federal Direct Loans (both subsidized and unsubsidized) are encouraged to track their loan debt [here](#). Students will need their FSA ID and password to log in and view their student loan information. Students may use the

A discussion of federal financial aid recipients' rights and responsibilities is included in [The Guide to Federal Student Aid](#), a financial aid publication of the U.S. Department of Education. This publication contains more detailed information about the federal student aid programs mentioned in this booklet.

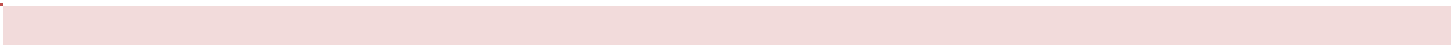
Dickinson provides services for disabled students on an individual basis depending upon need. These services are administered by the [Access and Disability Services](#).

Most of the academic facilities of the College are accessible to members of the disabled community. Facilities include wheelchair ramps, special parking, elevators, specially equipped restrooms, and lowered drinking fountains.

The College operates drug abuse prevention programs that are accessible to students and employees at the institution. Further information is available for students through the [Wellness Center](#) and for employees through [Human Resource Services \(Franco Associates\)](#).

Upon request, the Office of Financial Aid will provide the full address and phone number of the agency in each of the 50 states and the U.S. territories where information regarding state student financial aid is available.

Due to Covid-19, one-time exceptions were made to institutional policies for the 2020-21 academic year. Students who received these exceptions during the 2020-21 academic year should contact the Office of Financial Aid for further guidance on their aid eligibility in future years.



Family Financial Responsibility (FFR): Many schools award institutional need-based scholarships and grants based upon a more

include undergraduate (students seeking an associate degree, an undergraduate certificate, or a baccalaureate degree); postbaccalaureate (such as teacher certification); or graduate (students working on a master's degree, graduate certificate, doctorate, or professional degree). The amounts and types of financial aid for which a student is eligible is determined, in part, by their program level.

Scholarship: Gift Aid that is typically based on merit, such as, academic excellence, talent, affiliation with various groups, or career aspirations or a combination of merit and need.

Self-help: An institution's expectation that a student contribute toward their education using a combination of loans, student employment such as Federal Work Study, and/or summer savings.

Stafford Loan: Another name for the federal [Direct Loan](#) offered to student borrowers.

Tax Account Transcript: Similar to a tax return transcript but includes a running total of the individual's tax account.

Tax Return Transcript: The official receipt of tax return processing from the IRS. A transcript is available based on calendar year. Visit [IRS – Get Transcript](#) page to request your tax year transcript.

Title IV Eligible: Determines if the student and the institution are eligible to receive federal need