

GRADUATE FINANCIAL AID

- Options
- Application Process
- Cost
- Federal Terminology
- Questions

WHAT AID OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE?

- Federal Stafford Loan
- Federal PLUS Loan (credit-based)
- Private Loans (credit-based)
- Graduate Resident Director Opportunities
 - Part-time professional staff member and full time student who oversees the day to day operations of a residence hall
 - Covers on-campus housing and meal plan
- On-campus employment is available
 - Contact **Career Development** at **412-365-1209**
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
 - Limited fund available for students in the **PA** program, www.hrsa.gov
- Sawhney-Gough Clinical Excellence Scholarship
 - Second year **PT** students, emailed scholarship information and application instructions once they become eligible, which is during their second year in the PT program. Up to \$10,000 annually
- Veteran Benefits: Chatham is a participating Yellow Ribbon School

HOW DO I APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID?

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
 - If beginning in Fall 2020, Spring 2021 or Summer 2021, complete the 2020-21 FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov
 - If beginning in Fall 2021, complete the 2021-22 FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov, after October 1, 2019
 - If beginning in Fall 2022, complete the 2022-23 FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov , after October 1, 2020
- Chatham's **school code is 00324400**
- **As a graduate student you are considered independent and do not need to provide parental information on the FAFSA – even if your parent claims you as a dependent on their tax return**
- Use a FSA ID to sign the FAFSA electronically
 - Create or edit your FSA ID at <http://fsaid.ed.gov>
 - The Federal Student Aid Information Center (FAFSA helpline) can be reached at 1-800-433-3243

WHAT IS A SAR?

- **Student Aid Report (SAR): a summary of all information provided on the FAFSA**
 - If you provide a valid email address on the FAFSA, the SAR is emailed within 3-5 business days
 - Otherwise, it is mailed within 7-10 business days
- **Carefully review the SAR for any errors, then make the necessary corrections**
 - Corrections can be made directly online at www.fafsa.ed.gov

WHEN WILL I RECEIVE MY AWARD LETTER?

- After Chatham receives your FAFSA
 - will summarize your Cost of Attendance and loan eligibility
- Award letters are sent electronically via Chatham's eAward system
 - You will receive an email with a secure link to your eAward site
 - Chatham email or email address provided on Admissions application
 - You will then create username and password
- Accept, decline or make changes to the aid offered on the electronic award letter
 - The Office of Financial Aid is automatically notified if you make any changes to your award letter

WHAT IS A COST OF ATTENDANCE?

- Includes both direct and indirect costs
- Direct costs are those that are charged to your student account
 - Tuition and fees
 - Room and board (if living on-campus)
- Indirect costs are those that you will not incur a Chatham charge
 - Books and supplies
 - Transportation
 - Room and board (if living off campus)
 - Personal miscellaneous expenses
 - Computer purchase (one-time allowance during the first year at Chatham)
- Graduate students may borrow for both direct and indirect costs, which includes living expenses

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Program	2020-21 Tuition and fees per semester	Duration of Study
Master of Physician Assistant Studies	\$16,651 <small>(tuition, college fee, lab and insurance fee)</small>	6 semesters
Doctorate of Occupational Therapy	\$12,022 <small>(tuition, college fee, lab and insurance fee)</small>	8 semesters
Doctorate of Physical Therapy	\$13,172 <small>(tuition, college fee, lab and insurance fee)</small>	7 semesters
Athletic Training	\$10,991 <small>(tuition, college fee, lab and insurance fee)</small>	5 semesters

Online Textbook Fee

- Physician Assistant Studies: \$25 per term

Simulation Fee

- Physician Assistant Studies: \$45.83 per term
- Doctor of Physical Therapy: \$17.86 per term
- Master of Occupational Therapy: \$14.00 per term

ADDITIONAL COSTS

- Chatham University does not provide on-campus housing options on the Shadyside Campus for graduate students
 - Limited availability at the Eden Hall Campus
 - Contact Residence Life at (412)365-1172
 - Intergenerational Housing Option for School of Health Science Graduate Students at Vincentian Schenley Gardens
 - Low monthly rent in exchange for 4 hours per week with residents
 - RA position requiring 10 hours per week receive free rent
 - <https://vcs.org/students/>
- Meal Plan
 - Meal plan options range from \$175 to \$3,300 per term
(*costs based on 2020-21 academic year)
- Health Insurance
 - Opt-In
 - \$2,636 (August 2020 – July 2021)
 - Billed \$1,318 per term for fall and spring
 - All full-time students are required to have health insurance

WHAT IS A STAFFORD LOAN?

- Federal loans available to students who meet the following criteria:
 - Enrolled at least half-time (6 credits for all programs except PsyD - half-time at 3 credits)
 - US citizen or eligible non-citizen
 - Not in default on prior federal student loans
- Loan information:
 - The lender for the Federal Direct Stafford Loan is the US Department of Education
 - **4.30%** fixed interest rate
 - 1.059% loan origination fee – retained by lender
 - Example: \$1,000 loan - \$10.59 origination fee (1.059% of \$1,000) = \$989 net loan
 - **Unsubsidized:** accrues interest from the disbursement date
- Loan is deferred while enrolled at least half-time and during 6 month grace period
 - Enrollment information reported electronically to prior loan lenders by the Registrar's Office after add/drop period of the term

WHAT ARE THE STAFFORD LOAN LIMITS?

- Graduate students can borrow \$20,500
- Aggregate loan limits
 - \$138,500
 - Includes both undergraduate and graduate borrowing.
 - Check your loan history at the National Student Loan Data System, www.nslds.ed.gov
- Students will be packaged for fall/spring terms
 - Submit internal summer aid application to be considered for summer aid. Since programs are designed to go year round students will have eligibility for summer financial aid.
- Cohort programs (AT, PA, OT and PT) are automatically packaged year round

WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR A STAFFORD LOAN?

1. Complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN)

- Document where you agree to the terms and conditions of the loan
- Complete online at www.studentaid.gov
- Federal Student Aid ID to sign the MPN
 - The same FSA ID that you used to sign the FAFSA
- Once logged in, click on “Complete MPN” on main menu
 - Select the “subsidized/unsubsidized” loan type

2. Complete Entrance Counseling

- Online counseling session to ensure that you understand your rights and obligations as a borrower
- At www.studentaid.gov, click on “Complete Entrance Counseling”

WHAT IS A GRADUATE PLUS LOAN?

- A **credit-based** federal loan available to graduate students
 - Must be enrolled at least half-time
- Fixed interest rate of **5.30%**
- **4.236%** origination fee – retained by lender
- Annual loan limit: Up to COA minus other aid received, including federal Stafford loans
 - Can be used for living expenses
- Loan is **deferred** while enrolled at least half-time and during 6 month grace period

HOW DO I APPLY FOR A GRADUATE PLUS LOAN?

1. Complete a Direct Graduate PLUS loan application
 - Specify the dollar amount in which you are applying
 - Initiates a credit check
 - Complete online at www.studentaid.gov
 - Click on the “Request PLUS Loan” link, you will be notified of the results of the credit check immediately

2. Complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN)
 - At www.studentaid.gov, click on “Complete MPN” and select the “PLUS” loan type

3. Complete Entrance Counseling
 - At www.studentaid.gov, click on “Complete Entrance Counseling”
 - If you completed counseling for the Stafford loan, you do not need to complete it a second time for the PLUS loan

HOW DO I APPLY FOR A PRIVATE LOAN?

- Private loans are non-federal
- Credit-based
 - Depending on your creditworthiness, you may need a cosigner
 - Interest rate is based on credit
 - Fixed and variable interest rates available
- Chatham does not endorse any lender. You may choose any educational loan lender you prefer
 - [loan options for graduate students](#)
- Annual loan limit: Up to COA minus other aid received, including federal Stafford loans
- Can be used toward less-than-half-time enrollment
 - 1 to 5 credits

WHAT OTHER PAYMENT OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE?

- Tuition Installment Plan
 - Student Accounts Office payment plan
 - Monthly payments per term
- Corporate Payment Options (CPO)
 - Tuition Reimbursement
 - Tuition Advancement
- Contact Student Accounts at 412-365-2719 or studentaccounts@chatham.edu for more information

HOW WILL I RECEIVE A FINANCIAL AID REFUND?

- If you develop a credit balance on your student account (financial aid exceeds account charges)
 - a financial aid refund is issued within 7-14 days
 - Loan disbursement occurs before the start of the term, so refunds are generally issued by the first day of the term
- Refunds are issued by the Student Accounts Office using direct deposit
 - Refunds processed electronically through Education Computer Systems, Inc. (ECSI)
 - Sign up at www.ecsi.net/gateway/cu-erefund.html
 - ECSI:
 - cservice@ecsi.net or 1-888-549-3274

LIVE LIKE A STUDENT NOW RATHER THAN LATER



Start now and find tools that work for you.

Educate and reevaluate at milestones, curveballs and life stages.

Track your daily spending – every dollar should have a job.

www.nelnet.com/get-financially-fit

www.cashcourse.org - National Endowment for Financial Education

www.gradsense.org – TIAA CREF

www.balancepro.org – financial wellness nonprofit

CONTACT FINANCIAL AID

- Phone: 412-365-2781
- Email: financialaid@Chatham.edu
- Fax: 412-365-1871
- Hours: Monday – Friday, 8am to 5pm
 - No appointment necessary
 - Due to COVID-19 in person appointments are currently not available
 - Location Braun Hall
 - Office of Financial Aid
 - Woodland Road
 - Pittsburgh, PA 15232