

## Financial Planning and Financial Aid for MSW Students

Adequate preparation for pursuing graduate studies requires careful financial planning. The following information is provided to assist you in this effort. The estimated costs for financing one academic year (nine months) of graduate education is as follows. These estimates are based on the assumption that the student is single, living off campus, sharing a two-bedroom apartment and enrolled on a full-time basis. Adjust estimates where necessary.

	<u>Ohio Resident</u>	<u>Non-Resident</u>	
Tuition (3 quarters)	\$ 9,438	\$22,791	These costs are based on 2006 rates of tuition and estimates of other expenses (insurance not included)
Books and Supplies (3 qtrs)	1,000	1,000	
Living Expenses (9 months)	<u>8,000</u>	<u>8,000</u>	
	\$18,438	\$31,791	

For students who intend to apply for financial aid, the College suggests that you make application for multiple aid programs. Listed below are several of the major programs administered by the College of Social Work or the University Financial Aid Office. Financial aid is also made available through hundreds of private foundations, business organizations, etc. There are several periodicals available in the University and public libraries which list other resources including the Annual Register of Grant Support, The Grants Register, and the Directory of Financial Aid for Women.

### The Ohio State University and College of Social Work Administered Aid Programs:

1. Minority and University Fellowships: Provides tuition and stipend for first-year graduate work at OSU; *highly competitive, based on prior scholastic achievement*. To be eligible, you **must** take the GRE (general test), as well as indicate your desire to be considered on the OSU Graduate School Application and have all admission materials submitted by January 15 (earlier for international applicants). Fellowships are awarded to students enrolled full-time only.
2. Traineeships: Limited - vary from year to year, administered by the College. To be considered, applicants *must file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid form and a Social Work Scholarship Application*. Selection is based on academic achievement, experience, financial need and career objectives.
3. Graduate Associateships (GA's): *Usually GA's are not available to Master's students*. Applicants must file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid and a Social Work Application for a GA position.
4. Loans: Various loans available to graduate students include: (1) Federal Perkins Loan - must demonstrate financial need through filing of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and (2) Federal Direct Loan. For more detailed information go to <http://sfa.osu.edu/Loans>.
5. College Work-Study: Campus employment for students who demonstrate financial need. Applicants must file the FAFSA (be sure to contact the OSU Financial Aid Counseling Center for information about additional, specific Work-Study application requirements and deadlines at 614-292-0300).

Applicants can request further financial aid information and applications from:

University Financial Aid Office  
The Ohio State University  
Lincoln Tower  
1800 Cannon Drive  
Columbus, OH 43210  
(614) 292-0300

The Ohio State University  
College of Social Work

Instructions for Filing the College of Social Work Scholarship Application  
*and*  
General Information About Sources of Support

INTRODUCTION

Included in this packet you will find instructions and the application form by which current and potential Social Work graduate students can request financial aid from the College of Social Work. Unfortunately, the available College resources are never sufficient to meet the needs of all who apply. For this reason, within these instructions you will also find information, ideas and hints to help you explore other sources of financial assistance.

To be considered for financial aid administered by the College of Social Work, you must:

1. file the College of Social Work Scholarship Application by the deadline specified below; and
2. file the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)* before March 1

Most financial aid administered by the College of Social Work requires that the student demonstrate financial need (which is the purpose of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid [FAFSA]). In addition to need, many scholarships are limited to students with career interests that are compatible with the interests of the funding source. See the descriptions of scholarships which follow.

Graduate Associateships are awarded through a separate process. GA's are employed to meet specific College needs. Consequently, students are hired based on skills, not financial need. *These typically go only to doctoral students.*

Deadline

The Scholarship Application must be submitted to  
the Social Work MSW Office, 314 Stillman Hall by: March 1

The *completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)*  
must also be submitted by: March 1

CRITERIA FOR SCHOLARSHIPS FROM THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

Eligibility Criteria:

1. U.S. citizen or hold permanent visa
2. Be admitted to the MSW Program (late processing of the admission application will effect scholarship eligibility).

In addition, the College will evaluate all eligible applicants in terms of financial need, previous academic performance, experience in the field and the relevance of career goals to the requirements of the available awards.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

All applicants for scholarships from the College of Social Work must forward the College of Social Work Scholarship Application to: MSW Program Office, 314 Stillman Hall, 1947 College Rd., Columbus, OH 43210 by **March 1**.

## HOW "FINANCIAL NEED" IS DETERMINED

The majority of all sources of financial assistance require that the student demonstrate financial need. Briefly, a student is said to have financial need when the sum of all the student's financial resources are not sufficient to cover the costs for the academic year. Like most universities, Ohio State uses the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* to assess the student's available resources. This form is completed by the student (and parents where applicable) and mailed to Federal Student Aid Programs in Princeton, New Jersey to be evaluated. From the information provided, they calculate as estimated contribution, which estimates what the student and the student's family can pay toward the student's educational costs, and sends this evaluation to the University Financial Aid Office. This is a time consuming process, so it is wise to begin early.

This latter office may slightly adjust the estimated family contribution before subtracting the estimated contribution from the student's budget. The budget amount is determined by the Financial Aid Office, which conducts a survey each year of average local costs of housing, utilities, transportation, tuition, books, etc. From these careful calculations, standard budgets are obtained that differentiate by independent or dependent status, marital status, resident status, number of children, whether enrolled for three or four quarters during the year, etc. The difference between the student's standard budget and the family contribution is referred to as the student's financial need. Thus:

$$\text{Standard Budget minus Family Contribution} = \text{Financial Need}$$

Students with unusual circumstances, such as high medical bills, may consult with persons in the Need Analysis Office to request adjustments to the standard budget or the family contribution.

A new Free Application for Federal Student Aid or a renewal must be filed for each academic year. These may be filed online at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>. No filing fee is required.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

The following awards are administered by, or in conjunction with, the College. The availability and amount of awards is subject to change.

Traineeship with Cincinnati Center for Developmental Disorders: Available to MSW II students who have an interest in developmental disabilities and agree to accept field placement with the Center in Cincinnati. Includes a small monthly stipend and tuition waiver during the quarters of placement. There are two traineeships available and it's highly competitive. For an application or further information, contact Roz Parrish at 513-636-4619 by April 1.

Veterans Administration Traineeship: The Veterans Administration provides traineeships for students during the second year of the MSW Program. VA trainees must accept a field placement at one of the VA Hospitals (located in Columbus, Dayton, Cincinnati or Chillicothe). Traineeships include a monthly stipend for nine months; tuition is not included. For further information, contact the Field Practicum Office, 125 Stillman Hall.

The Rosalyn L. Bandman Scholarship: Children's Hospital provides this scholarship to an outstanding graduate student in the field of clinical social work who displays a strong commitment to working with children within a health care setting. The recipient will be awarded a \$1,500 scholarship and will complete their MSW II internship at Children's Hospital. For an application or further information, contact the Field Practicum Office, 125 Stillman Hall.

Memorial Funds: The College of Social Work provides partial tuition awards from several memorial accounts. Application is through the College MSW Office (Room 314 Stillman Hall), using the Scholarship application.

Merriss Cornell Research Scholarship: Available for MSW and Ph.D. students in amounts ranging from \$100-\$300. This scholarship is to promote excellence in thesis research by providing funds needed to carry out research activity. Students must have an approved research proposal and file a separate application. Application and further information are available in the College of Social Work Ph.D. Program Office. Application deadline in May 1st.

## OTHER UNIVERSITY SOURCES OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT

In addition to the College sources of support, applicants can seek assistance from several programs administered through the University Student Financial Aid Office, located in Lincoln Tower, 1800 Cannon Drive. Information on these programs, in addition to that which is provided below, can be obtained by visiting their web site at <http://sfa.osu.edu>.

University Graduate School Fellowships: The University Graduate School Fellowship Program is one of the few award programs based on an outstanding academic performance rather than financial need. Awards are limited to students enrolled in the *first year* of a graduate program at Ohio State. Awards are highly competitive with applicants across all graduate departments. Recipients receive tuition and a monthly stipend for four consecutive quarters. For full details, visit <http://gradsch.osu.edu>.

To apply for a *University Fellowship*, applicants must check the appropriate box on the Graduate School Application for Admission. Individuals must have a high cumulative GPA and take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). In addition, all materials for admission must be on file no later than January 15 to be considered for the February competition (November 30 for international applicants).

To apply for a *Minority (Graduate Enrichment) Fellowship*, applicants must check the appropriate box on the Graduate School Application for Admission. Individuals must have at least a 3.2 cumulative grade-point average and take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). In addition, all materials for admission must be on file no later than January 15 to be considered for the February competition.

Student Employment: Information on employment opportunities on and off campus can be obtained through the Student Employment Office, located in Lincoln Tower. Student employment services are available only to students who have registered and paid fees.

Education Loans: The Student Financial Aid Office administers all student loans at The Ohio State University. The following loans are available to help finance graduate education. Regulations may change from year to year. (Contact the Student Financial Aid Loan Office for further details, 614-292-0300) or by visiting <http://sfa.osu.edu/Loans>.

1. University Loan - These loans are applied for quarterly and have a usual maximum of \$650 per loan. Interest rates usually average 7% and repayment schedules vary. Should be used as a last resort!
2. Federal Direct Loan - These loans are available through the University Financial Aid Office. Repayments of principal and interest begin six months after the student leaves the University. Filing of the FAFSA is required as this type of loan is need based. Application processing takes at least 12 weeks.
3. Emergency Loan - At any time during the year, a student may apply for an emergency loan for \$50, or in unusual circumstances, up to \$500. Repayment period is 90 days at 7% interest. Must have a co-signer or employment of 20 hours per week. Also should be used as a last resort!

Federal College Work-Study Program: The University Financial Aid Work-Study Office administers this employment program for students at OSU. To be eligible, you must be a U.S. citizen or hold a permanent or immigrant visa and file the FAFSA to demonstrate financial need. Be sure to contact the OSU Financial Aid Counseling Center for information about additional, specific, Work-Study application requirements and deadlines (614-292-0300). Qualified students will be employed in a campus position for no more than 30 hours per week. Hourly rates vary.

Graduate Associateships in Other Departments: Occasionally, Social Work students have secured Graduate Associateship (GA) positions in departments other than Social Work. Usually, these are the result of the students' personal connections or efforts.

## NON-UNIVERSITY SOURCES OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Because of the limited funds available through the College of Social Work, students are strongly encouraged to seek financial assistance through alternative sources such as these listed below. Also, to learn about more scholarship and grant programs, consult the following periodicals, available in the University and public libraries: *The Annual Register of Grant Support*, *The Grants Register* and the *Directory of Financial Aid for Women*.

Hattie M. Strong Loans: The Hattie M. Strong Foundation administers an interest-free loan program for American college students. Loans are made solely on the basis of individual merit, without regard to race, sex or religion, are interest-free and do not require collateral. The terms of the repayment are based upon monthly income after graduation and are arranged with each individual so as to work a minimum of hardship. Only those students who are within one year of completing their studies for the degree will be considered. Maximum loan for one year is \$5000.

Students should request application after January 1. Deadline is March 31. Loans are made on a competitive basis taking into account the applicant's motivation, need, self-reliance, as well as scholastic record. Make inquiries to the Hattie M. Strong Foundation, 1620 Eye Street NW, Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20006; phone (202) 331-1619 or by visiting [www.hmstrongfoundation.org](http://www.hmstrongfoundation.org).

Graduate Legislative Intern Program: Congressional Black Caucus Foundation: This internship program provides Black and other minority graduate students with exposure to the legislative branch of the government. Interns are assigned to the staff of congressional committees to serve a two to three month internship during winter and summer and receive a stipend of \$1,000 per month. For additional information contact: The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, 3383-A House Annex #2, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Ohio Legislative Internship Program: For recent college graduates (baccalaureate or master's level) who desire practical experience in the legislative process or legislative research. This program is designed to encourage outstanding college graduates to pursue careers in public service. Applicants must have degree completed by December 1. Successful applicants normally have a "B" average or higher and above average communication skills. Applications accepted beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, with an April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. Appointments are for one year beginning in December at a salary of \$24,500, with an annual bonus of \$2000 if internship completed. For application and additional information contact: Ohio Legislative Service Commission, Legislative Internship Program, State House, Columbus, OH 43215, phone (614) 466-3615.

The Jewish Welfare Board Scholarships: The Jewish Welfare Board offers a scholarship program designed to aid students who are concentrating their studies in areas leading to professional careers in Jewish Community Center work (i.e. synagogues, Jewish youth groups, etc.). For further information regarding types of aid, scholarship criteria, and application procedures write to: The Scholarship Coordinator, The Jewish Welfare Board, 15 East 26th Street, New York, NY 10010. Application deadline is February 1.

## CAMPUS RESOURCES YOU SHOULD KNOW

Student Financial Aid Offices - Lincoln Tower <http://sfa.osu.edu>

Need Analysis	Room 517	292-0300
Financial Aid Information	Room 517	292-0300
Counseling	Room 517	292-0300
Loans	Room 517	292-0300
Work-Study and Employment	Room 517	292-0300
Veteran's Center	Room 517	292-2940
Director's Office	Room 920	292-1134

MSW Office - College of Social Work, 314 Stillman Hall, 292-2972