

# FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIP

## UNIVERSITY POLICY ON FINANCIAL AID

The goal of the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarship at The National Hispanic University is to deliver student aid efficiently and to ensure availability of aid for students who without such assistance would be unable to pursue their educational goals at NHU.

For those who qualify, eligibility for financial aid is based both on academic merit, and financial need. Financial need is the difference between the cost of attending NHU and the Expected Family Contribution (EFC, the amount the student and student's family are expected to contribute towards their education for the current academic year).

All students are encouraged to apply for every available form of aid.

## APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID

To apply for Financial Aid the student needs to:

- Apply for admission to The NHU;
- Pick up current Financial Aid and Scholarship Applications from the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarship;
- Complete and submit applications according to given instructions. All applications must be completed before the processing of a student's financial aid award begins.

A new application with supporting documents must be filed every academic year a student wishes to receive financial aid and/or scholarship. Additional requirements are needed for students applying for loans.

Specific eligibility requirements vary between programs. The following criteria apply to all Federal Student Aid programs:

- Be accepted and enrolled in an eligible program leading to a degree, or a certificate;
- Be a U.S. citizen, or eligible non-citizen;
- Have a valid social security number;
- Demonstrate financial need, except for some loan programs;

- Sign a statement on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) certifying that the financial aid monies will only be used for educational purposes;
- Maintain satisfactory progress in a course of study according to the standards and practices of The NHU;
- Not owe a refund on a federal Pell Grant or be in default on any Federal Educational Loan;
- Have met legal requirements for selective service registration, if applicable.

## FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

### Federal Programs

#### **Federal Pell Grant Program**

The Federal Pell Grant Program provides grants to help undergraduate students, with financial needs, meet the costs of post-secondary education. To receive Pell Grants, students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and demonstrate financial need. All Federal Pell Grants are gift aid awards and do not have to be repaid.

#### **Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program (FSEOG)**

FSEOG is a campus-based program that awards grants to undergraduate and teacher credential students to help pay for the costs of post-secondary education. To qualify, students must submit a completed FAFSA and demonstrate exceptional financial need. Award amounts are to be determined by the Financial Aid Office according to NHU's packaging policy and available funds. FSEOG is a gift aid award and does not have to be repaid.

#### **Federal Work Study Program (FWS)**

FWS is a campus-based program that provides job opportunities, both on and off campus, to Federal aid eligible students as an aid to meeting the costs of post-secondary education. Students qualify by submitting a complete FAFSA and by being hired by a FWS employer. Award amount is based on need and determined according to NHU's packaging policy and available funds. FWS is a self-help aid, and does not need to be repaid.

## **Federal Stafford Loan Program**

Federal Stafford Loans are low interest loans for students enrolled in a degree or certificate program to help pay for the costs of post-secondary education. To participate, the student must submit a completed FAFSA, and obtain a school certification and apply to a lender. The lender disburses funds to NHU and the student's account is credited. Both subsidized and unsubsidized loans are available. Loan amounts are determined by need and student's year in school. Repayment may be deferred until six months after the student either graduates or drops below half-time (6 units per semester) enrollment.

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## **State Programs**

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The Cal Grant Program is a state funded educational opportunity grant program, which assists students in paying for the costs of post-secondary education. To be eligible students must submit a completed FAFSA and a Grade Point Average Verification form by March 2 of the year before the award year. Students must be US Citizens or eligible non-citizen and California residents. Students must not be in default of a student loan and must be meeting satisfactory academic progress as defined by the University.

### **Cal Grant A (Entitlement and Competitive Awards)**

Cal Grant A Entitlement Awards provide grant funds to help pay for tuition and fees to California residents attending qualifying institutions. Entitlement awards are guaranteed for students with at least a 3.0 grade point average and meet need qualifications. Those who do not qualify for entitlement awards will be considered for competitive awards. Competitive awards are issued to students from middle-low income families. Cal Grant A is a gift aid and does not have to be repaid.

### **Cal Grant B (Entitlement and Competitive Awards)**

Cal Grant B Entitlement Awards provide grant funds assisting students with the costs of post-secondary education. Grants are awarded to California residents attending qualified institutions. Entitlement awards are guaranteed for students with at least a 2.0 grade point average and meet need qualifications.

Those who do not qualify for entitlement awards will be considered for competitive awards. Competitive awards are awarded to students from low-income, disadvantaged backgrounds, and are used for access costs (room & board, transportation etc;). Cal Grant B is a gift aid and does not have to be repaid.

## **Assumption Program of Loans for Education (APLE)**

Assumes up to \$11,000 in loan debt for students pursuing a K-12 teaching career, in exchange for 4 years of teaching service. APLE is also available for undergraduate students who intend on pursuing an initial teaching credential.

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## **Institutional Scholarships**

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Several scholarship programs are available to qualified students attending NHU. Scholarships are available each academic year, subject to satisfactory academic progress and the availability of funds. Eligibility is based both on financial need, academic merit as well as specified criteria set by respective donors.

### **The National Hispanic University Scholarship Fund.**

For those who qualify, The NHU scholarship assists qualified students in paying for tuition, fees, and textbooks. The range of awards is from \$540 to \$1080 per semester based on financial need and/or academic merit. NHU bases its selection on financial needs, academic merit and criteria set by the donor. The NHU scholarships are funded by donations from the Board of Trustees and other private donors.

Deadlines for the NHU Scholarship Fund Application are set the beginning of each module. Applications are available in the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarship and are available on the NHU website ([www.nhu.edu](http://www.nhu.edu)).

- Must be a student at The National Hispanic University; NHU Scholarships are not transferable to other institutions
- Must submit a complete NHU Scholarship Application to the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarship
- Must have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0. All students applying for a merit-based award must have at least a 3.0 GPA
- Must be enrolled for and complete at least 6 units per semester at NHU
- Must submit a complete FAFSA or relevant income information to the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarship

**Eligibility requirements:****Application procedures:**

- Submit complete NHU Scholarship Application to the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarship - only completed applications will be considered for award;
- Submit complete FAFSA or relevant income information to the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarship;
- Applications are reviewed by The NHU Scholarship Committee which includes representatives from each academic department;
- Letters will be sent to awardees and each respective account will be credited;
- NHU Scholarship Funds will be awarded based on grade point average and/or financial need, and number of units registered for each semester (award amounts may vary based on availability of funds).

**Terms and Conditions:**

- Funds will be awarded upon notification from The NHU Scholarship Committee Chairperson and/or Director of the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarship;
- Grades of “W,” “F,” “U,” “I,” or “NC,” or dropping below half time enrollment may result in reduction or cancellation of scholarship award(s);
- Students on academic probation may not be eligible to receive NHU Scholarship;
- The NHU Scholarship Committee reserves the right to change the amount of awards depending on availability of funds.

**Teacher Education Scholarships**

There are several Scholarships available for prospective teachers, both for undergraduate and teacher credential students. These scholarships are designed to help students pay for a portion of tuition and fees while working towards a teaching credential at NHU. Students must meet Federal Student Aid Citizenship requirements and be committed to a career in teaching.

Application procedures, and Terms and Conditions hold the same for Teacher Education Scholarships as they do for The NHU Scholarship Fund.

**Veteran’s Benefits**

The National Hispanic University has been approved for the training of Veterans and eligible persons under the Title 38 US Code.

Students who are eligible to receive Veteran’s Educational Benefits should contact the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarship regarding their funding.

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**Refunds**

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In accordance with federal regulations, refunds to financial aid recipients are first applied to repayment of aid disbursed as follows:

- Unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loans
- Subsidized Federal Stafford Loans
- Federal PLUS Loans
- Federal Pell Grant Program
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
- State Student Financial Assistance
- Institutional Financial Assistance
- Student

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**Right to Information**

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Students have the right to a full explanation of The NHU financial aid programs, policies, and procedures. Complete information is contained in The NHU Financial Aid Policies and Procedures Manual, Financial Aid Student Handbook, and the other regulations available in the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarship.