

Gordon College Financial Aid Fact Sheet

Applying for Financial Aid

- Complete the FAFSA if you are interested in applying for federal student aid (including a student loan) as well as the HOPE scholarship. The link for the application is: www.fafsa.ed.gov. Please make sure to select the appropriate aid year for the FAFSA you are completing (See Aid Year Definitions listed at the end of this document).
- The student and parent must both apply for a pin in order to sign the FAFSA electronically. This can be done at the following link: www.pin.ed.gov.
- In most (if not all) cases, students desiring to reside on campus at Gordon College will be required to obtain a student loan. Please refer to the section listed below for information on applying for student loans.
- It is also extremely important that you become familiar with the financial aid deadlines that are implemented by Gordon College for each semester. Failure to adhere to published deadlines can and usually does result in a student's financial aid award being delayed so that a student is required to pay all of his or her expenses with their own funds until the financial aid can be awarded at a later date (if the student is eligible to receive financial aid).
- Students that are only interested in applying for the HOPE scholarship may do so at the following link: www.gacollege411.org. Please complete the GSFAPP application on this website. Indicate you are applying for the HOPE Scholarship program and list Gordon College as a recipient of the application. Please note that this application is for the HOPE Scholarship program only; a student cannot receive other financial aid (including loans) by the use of this application.

Applying for a Student Loan

- In order to receive a student loan from Gordon College, the 2009-2010 Stafford Loan Request must be completed for the appropriate award year. For the 2009-2010 aid year, which includes the Fall 2009 semester, the Spring 2010 semester, and the Summer 2010 semester, the application can be accessed at the following link: <http://www.gdn.edu/FinancialAid/>. Select the 2009-10 Stafford Loan Request located in the tan box on the right side of the screen.
- If this is the first time you are applying for a student loan at Gordon College, you must create an account in order to access the loan application. You will need to establish a username and password (this is not your Gordon access information) and complete the form.

General Information Regarding the HOPE Scholarship Program

- If a student receives the HOPE scholarship and no other type of financial aid, then he or she will be required to pay the difference between the total fees charged and the fees that HOPE covers (at the present time, HOPE covers \$90 of the mandatory fees charged to Gordon students).
- The HOPE Scholarship program and the HOPE Grant program are not the same. Students who are transferring to Gordon College who received payment from the HOPE grant program will not receive payment from the HOPE Scholarship program unless they are academically qualified for the HOPE Scholarship. Please visit the link below to view the academic requirement for HOPE Scholarship eligibility. **Gordon College does not offer the HOPE grant.**
http://www.gacollege411.org/Financial_Aid_Planning/HOPE_Program/Georgia_s_HOPE_Scholarship_Program_Overview.aspx
- For a more detailed description of the HOPE scholarship program, students are encouraged to visit the following link: <http://www.gdn.edu/FinancialAid/typesofAid/HOPE.asp>
- Students may also visit the following link for HOPE information:
http://www.gacollege411.org/Financial_Aid_Planning/HOPE_Program/Georgia_s_HOPE_Scholarship_Program_Overview.aspx

General Information Regarding Student Loans

- As mentioned before, Gordon College students are required to complete the online loan request. Please refer to the section entitled “Applying for a Student Loan” (listed above) for the link.
- Please Note: All first-time borrowers of Federal Stafford Loans (Subsidized and Unsubsidized) are subjected to a 30 day delay clause. The funds will not be disbursed to the student until 30 days after the date the student begins his/her program of study. The student is responsible for all charges accrued prior to the disbursement date.
- First time borrowers are defined as students that are entering Gordon College as beginning freshmen (having not attended any other college or technical school after high school graduation) or a student that transfers to Gordon College with less than 30 earned hours of college coursework (accepted as transfer credit by Gordon College). The Department of Education requires Gordon College to withhold the initial disbursement on this type of student loans until 30 days after the first day of class. Again, it is important to understand that these funds will not be available for student to pay any and all charges that are assessed prior to the beginning of classes, including resident hall charges. The student will be responsible for paying these charges, and failure to do so will result in the loss of the class schedule along with forfeiture of the residence hall room.

- In order to receive the student loan, the student must sign a Master Promissory Note (if they have not already done so). Information on signing the note can be found at the following link: <http://www.gdn.edu/FinancialAid/finaidforms.asp>

General Information about the Financial Aid Process

- The receipt of a FAFSA does not necessarily mean that a student's financial aid file is complete. The financial aid file is not complete until all required documentation has been received by the Gordon College Financial Aid Office. Students will be notified by mail of any additional documentation that is required to complete the financial aid process. Students can also determine if any documentation has not been received by the Financial Aid Office at the following link: https://phoenix.gdn.edu/pls/prod/twbkwbis.P_GenMenu?name=bmenu.P_FACostMnu
- Click on "My Eligibility" and then "Student Requirements" in order to view the information.
- Please refer to the following link for important financial aid deadline information: <http://www.gdn.edu/FinancialAid/applyforaid/deadlines.asp>
- Some student files are required to have the information on the FAFSA verified by the Gordon College Financial Aid Office. As a Quality Assurance School, Gordon College establishes criteria for verification on an annual basis. If a student is selected for this process, they will be required to submit additional documentation in order to complete the file. No aid can be awarded to the student account, including student loans, until this process is complete. If this documentation is not received by the appropriate deadline, it is highly likely that the financial aid will not be awarded in time to meet payment deadlines, etc. For further information concerning the verification process, please visit the following link: <http://www.gdn.edu/FinancialAid/applyforaid/applyprocess.asp>

Important Note regarding the Verification Process as it relates to Proper Tax Filing Status

- As part of the verification process, some students are required to submit a copy of the parental tax return for the previous filing year. In many instances, the taxes submitted to the Gordon College Financial Aid Office have not been properly filed. As a general rule, if a student's parents are married, or if they are separated but living at the same address, then the proper filing status for financial aid purposes would be either married filing jointly or married filing separately. **Please do not submit copies of parental and/or student income tax returns unless requested to do so by the Gordon College Financial Aid Office.**
- In most cases, students desiring to reside on campus will not receive enough financial aid to cover all of their expenses. While financial aid is available to assist students in meeting the costs of higher education, it is still the student's responsibility to ensure they have adequate funding

to pay his or her expenses. In some cases, it will be necessary for the student to pay his or her expenses and be reimbursed with financial aid at a later time (if they are eligible for any aid).

- Students and parents are encouraged to visit the Financial Aid Web Page in order to become familiar with the financial aid process at Gordon College. The link to view the financial aid information is <http://www.gdn.edu/FinancialAid/>
- **The most important thing to remember is to apply for financial aid as early as possible. Please refer to the appropriate deadlines for each semester in order to ensure that all documents are submitted to the Gordon College Financial Aid Office in a timely manner. The FAFSA and Student Loan Request must be submitted each year. The GSFAPP application (for the HOPE Scholarship Program only) does not have to be completed annually (please refer to the HOPE section on www.gaccollege411.org for information on when the GSFAPP may need to be resubmitted). It has been our experience that financial aid files that are completed after July 1st in preparation for the fall semester which begins in August of each year are not always reviewed and finalized by the Gordon College Financial Aid Office before the appropriate payment deadlines. It is imperative that you complete this process well before the July 1st deadline in order for the process to be complete and the appropriate financial aid to be awarded.**

Other Information

The financial aid disbursement date and the Higher One Card refund date are not the same dates. Refunds to the Higher One Card occur after the financial aid disbursement date. Please refer to the Business Office web site for the Higher One Card refund dates.

Definition of Aid Years

The 2009-2010 Aid Year consists of the following semesters:

Fall 2009
Spring 2010
Summer 2010

The 2010-2011 Aid Year consists of the following semesters:

Fall 2010
Spring 2011
Summer 2011