Here’s information you’ll need to know from Student Financial Aid (SFA).

**Enrollment Requirements:**
Your award may consist of a Fall and Spring award in which you must be enrolled at least half-time (5 credit hours) in a degree-seeking or qualifying certificate program to be eligible for federal student aid. Full-time enrollment is 9 or more credit hours in a semester. We will verify your enrollment prior to determining how it will affect your financial aid eligibility.

**Contact Information:**
It is very important we have your correct permanent and preferred mailing addresses as well as phone numbers on file, so UMSL can communicate with you. You can update this information through MyView student access. The primary method of communication for SFA and UMSL is through your UMSL email account. Be sure to check this account regularly.

**Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP):**
Graduate Students must meet these requirements to be eligible to receive federal student aid.

1. Have a minimum cumulative UMSL GPA of 3.00+
2. Complete your program within 150% of the required number of credit hours.

Optometry students are monitored by their school. The complete policy is online at http://www.umsl.edu/services/finaid/finaidbasics/sap.html.

**Federal Title IV Authorization:**
This authorization allows you the opportunity to decide whether you want UMSL to apply your federal aid to charges above the cost of tuition, fees, books, room and board should you incur such charges. If you do not authorize UMSL to do so, you are responsible for paying those charges to the Cashier’s Office within the semester.

**Dropping Classes or Withdrawing:**
We understand it may be necessary for you to drop a course or withdraw from the University due to unforeseen circumstances. However, if you must do so and have received federal aid, you may have to repay the aid you received. Using a federal formula, we determine if the aid you received exceeds reasonable allowances for the education and living expenses incurred. If you received more than was necessary for the time you were enrolled, the excess funds must be returned to your aid program(s). If your withdrawal is back-dated to the beginning of the semester, all aid will be returned to the appropriate program(s), and you will receive a bill from the Cashier’s Office for your total amount of aid received. If possible, contact Student Financial Aid prior to dropping a course or withdrawing to determine how it will affect your financial aid eligibility.

**Disbursement of Financial Aid Funds:**
Financial aid funds are applied to your UMSL charges no earlier than 10 days prior to the first day of classes for a semester. If you have an excess of aid, a refund will be issued. The refund will either be a check through the mail or you can enroll in Direct Deposit through MyView student access. Disbursement will only occur if you are meeting the eligibility requirements for the types of aid accepted.

**Earliest Fall 2019 Disbursement:**
August 9th

**Earliest Spring 2020 Disbursement:**
January 13th

The Cashier’s Office will send monthly billing statements via your UMSL email account. Any pending financial aid will adjust your amount due for the semester. A positive balance is what you owe after financial aid is disbursed and a negative balance is the amount you can estimate will be refunded to you. If you have additional charges on your account after aid disburse, you are responsible for paying your balance off with the Cashier’s Office by the end of the semester or you will be held from registering for your next term. Payment plans are available, but the Cashier’s Office does assess late fees and finance charges on balances carried over monthly. Payments are always due to the Cashier’s Office by the 1st of the month. Information on tuition, fees, billing and payment can be found on the Cashier’s website at http://www.umsl.edu/cashiers/index.html.

**Accepting Aid:**
You will accept your aid through MyView student access, using your SSO ID (username) and password to log in. E-Consent must be completed in order to view your financial aid information. Once E-Consent is completed, you will re-log into MyView and navigate as follows:

1. Accept/Decline Awards
2. Self Service
3. Campus Finances
4. Accept/Decline Awards
5. Click Aid Year to view your award.

We encourage you to accept scholarship and grant funds before taking out a student loan and to only borrow what you need. Please keep in mind, most financial aid accepted will automatically be split between the Fall and Spring semesters. Once you accept or decline aid, click “Submit” and go through all of the steps until you return to the “Accept/Decline Awards” page. If you plan to use federal loans for the Summer semester, reduce the amount you accept for Fall and Spring. Summer aid eligibility is based on the remaining loan amount after the Fall and Spring semester disbursements.
**Student Loan Information:**

* Note: Interest rates may increase July 1st based on the Treasury Department.

**Types of Aid:**

**NOTE:** Any type of assistance awarded after you receive your financial aid offer may reduce loans and other aid you were originally offered.

**Scholarships:**
You can apply for graduate student scholarships by completing the application available through SFA. [http://www.umsl.edu/services/financialaid/scholarships/apply.html](http://www.umsl.edu/services/financialaid/scholarships/apply.html).
You may inquire with your academic department regarding scholarship opportunities and search our external scholarships links on the SFA website. If you are receiving an external scholarship, please notify our office.

**TEACH Grant:**
This federal grant is for students who indicate on their FAFSA of the intention to teach after graduation for a certain number of years in a “high need” area designated by the Department of Education. If a student does not fulfill the teaching commitment, the grant converts into a Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan. For more information on the TEACH Grant, visit [http://studentaid.ed.gov/types/grants-scholarships/teach](http://studentaid.ed.gov/types/grants-scholarships/teach).

**Loans:**

**Health Professions Student Loan (HPSL)**
This loan is for students in the Optometry program and is provided through the Department of Health and Human Services. Parental information is required for this loan, and the application is available on the SFA website under our Forms link for the 2019-2020 academic year.

**Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan:**
Most graduate students are offered a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, which is non-need based. This loan does begin accruing interest once the funds disburse to the Cashier’s Office to be applied towards your balance. All first time borrowers at UMSL must complete Entrance Counseling and a Master Promissory Note before their Direct Unsubsidized loan can disburse. These steps can be completed at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov).

**Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan:**
A non-need based loan option for graduate students who have exhausted their Stafford Loan eligibility. Students apply through the studentloans.gov website and a credit check is performed by the Department of Education. The school will certify the loan for the amount in which you are eligible, if approved by the Department of Education. A separate Master Promissory Note and Entrance Counseling is required to be completed through [studentloans.gov](http://studentloans.gov). Repayment begins once the loan fully disburses and in-school deferment may be possible by contacting your federal loan servicer.

**Alternative Loans:**
You may also apply for an alternative/private loan. A list of alternative lenders can be found on the SFA website under the “Loans” link.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Eligibility</th>
<th>Payment Begins</th>
<th>Interest Rate</th>
<th>Lender</th>
<th>Borrower</th>
<th>Origination Fees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan</td>
<td>Non-need-based</td>
<td>Six months after graduation or &lt; ½ time enrollment</td>
<td>* Fixed 6.00%</td>
<td>Federal Government</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>1.066% origination fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Graduate PLUS</td>
<td>Non-need-based, final approval pending credit check</td>
<td>Once fully disbursed, but eligible for in-school deferment</td>
<td>* Fixed 7.00%</td>
<td>Federal Government</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>4.264% origination fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPSL (Optometry only)</td>
<td>Need-based</td>
<td>Twelve months after graduation or &lt; ½ time enrollment</td>
<td>Fixed 5.0%, begins at repayment</td>
<td>UMSL</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>