University of Pittsburgh
School of Medicine

Office of Admissions & Financial Aid
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TERMS AND CONDITIONS GOVERNING MEDICAL STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

1. Need-based grants at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine (UPSOM) are limited to those applicants who demonstrate financial need. Financial need is determined from information supplied by the student (and student's spouse) and the student's parent(s), on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), CSS Profile, and as verified by the required supporting documents. Awards are made within the limits of program eligibility, institutional policy, the applicant's outside sources of aid and the availability of funds.

2. Need-based grants and all scholarships depend on contributions from generous individuals, foundations, organizations, and prioritization by the dean. **Acceptance of UPSOM need-based aid and other scholarships may require written communication with donors along with biographical and academic updates during the academic year for UPSOM donors. Acceptance of these funds implies consent and agreement to participate in these activities.**

3. **It is our hope that just as there have been generous donors who have made these funds available for you that when you are able, you will give to UPSOM's scholarship fund to assist students who come after you.**

4. Adjustments and over awards: Per federal regulations, financial aid cannot exceed the student's documented financial need. To comply with guidelines and regulations concerning over awards, the Admissions and Financial Aid Office must have accurate information regarding any financial assistance a student may have received or anticipates receiving in the form of grants, scholarships, loans or other aid during the academic year. Providing this information to the Admissions and Financial Aid Office in a timely manner will reduce the risk and consequences of being over awarded. Please keep in mind that any additional sources of aid may change your aid and/or loan eligibility. Students are required to report any additional source of funding to the financial aid office within 30 days of notification of the award. The total combined scholarships awarded from both the University and any outside agency cannot exceed the student's total Cost of Attendance. Therefore, it may be necessary for our office to decrease your scholarship(s) and/or loans from the University so that your total funding does not exceed your total cost of attendance. If a student withdraws partially through a term and will receive a refund, the student may be subject to partial or full return of both scholarship and loan funds.

5. Appeal Procedure: A student may appeal a decision made by the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid regarding an award amount, a calculation of need, a satisfactory progress determination, an adjustment or a repayment request. The appeal must be in written form and contain documentation of any special circumstances which may directly affect the student's financial situation. All appeals should be addressed to the Vice Dean for Education.

6. Satisfactory on-time academic progress and strict adherence to the code of conduct is required for continued consideration for financial assistance at the University of Pittsburgh.

7. Financial aid proceeds must be used solely for meeting direct education costs and related living expenses of the student.

8. Fiscal responsibility is of the utmost importance to students pursuing a medical education. Students in default status on prior educational loans are ineligible for scholarship, grant or loan assistance awarded by UPSOM. Students whose educational loans are currently in a pre- claim or default status are encouraged to contact their loan servicer(s) to seek resolution. All debts incurred prior to attendance at the UPSOM remain the responsibility of the student. Please keep in mind that negative credit ratings may cause ineligibility for some student aid programs.

9. Loan Counseling Provisions: To ensure that student borrowers understand their rights and responsibilities, the student must attend all required sessions. At this time, a student is required to complete an entrance interview or entrance counseling before the Admissions and Financial Aid Office can credit institutional or federal loan funds to a student's account. To ensure that student borrowers receive excellent debt management counseling, the student is required to have a debt management counseling session near the middle of their medical school journey. Upon completion of study or termination of attendance, all federal student loan borrowers are required to complete the Federal Direct Loan Exit Counseling. All loan borrowers are required to attend a debt management counseling/exit interview with the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid. In addition, recipients of institutional loan funds are required to complete exit counseling with the Office of University Collections.

10. Unit Loan Concept: To ensure that high-need students have priority for institutional need-based scholarship funds, a unit loan of $25,000 is applied to meet financial need to students before determining eligibility for need-based assistance. If a student elects to decrease the amount of loan applied to them and borrows less than the $25,000 unit loan, the student's eligibility for need-based aid may be affected and the student's need-based award may be forfeited.

11. These policies are subject to change. They are operative for the current year and represent no commitment beyond the current year. In all, need based financial aid and other scholarships are limited to 8 semesters of distribution.

12. Any intentional false verbal or written statements or misrepresentations made to the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid will cause financial aid awards to be voided, disbursed funds recovered, and may subject an individual to prosecution through federal, state or local law which may result in fines, imprisonment or both. Simultaneously, the same conduct may also subject the individual to University discipline procedures. Knowingly furnishing false information to the University or other similar forms of dishonesty in University regulated affairs, as well as forgery, alteration, destruction or misuse of University documents, records, identification cards or papers, may also subject the individual to dismissal or expulsion from the University, independent of charges for violation of federal, state or local laws.

13. Leave of Absence: If you plan to take a leave of absence at any time during your medical school education, please review Title IV regulations regarding the return of financial aid meant for educational expenses. Students who receive financial aid are required to meet with a Financial Aid staff member prior to the leave.

14. The financial aid office is unable to provide any tax advice to students regarding stipends, scholarships or filing status. Students should refer to the IRS publication 970.