

Topics:

- [Renewal of Financial Aid](#)
- [Grant for High Book Expenses](#)
- [Help with Uninsured Medical or Emergency Dental Expenses](#)
- [Taxable Scholarship and Grant Aid](#)
- [Refunds and Cash advances](#)
- [Study Away Planning and Financial Aid](#)
- [Support for Senior Expenses](#)
- [Graduating Seniors with Loans and Exit Counseling](#)
- [International Students Working On-Campus over the Summer](#)
- [Off-Campus Work-study Earnings Limits](#)
- [Last Day to Request a New Loans](#)

It's Time to Apply for Financial Aid for 2015-16

Applications for financial aid for 2015-16 are now available and due April 25. Information is available on our website under "Renewal & Upperclass Applicants" at https://www.amherst.edu/offices/financialaid/renewal_upperclassapps. Applications completed after June 1 are subject to late fees.

Renewal of financial aid is based on:

- Filing a complete application for renewal of financial aid, including all required forms.
- Continuing to show need for financial aid.
- Maintaining satisfactory academic progress toward your degree.

Grant Available for High Book Expenses

If you receive grant from the College and your costs for required books and supplies exceed \$1,000 this academic year, your grant aid can be increased. To ask for an adjustment you should send the Office of Financial Aid a listing of your courses and documentation for the total cost of books and supplies for each class. Book costs can include departmental course charges and lab fees charged to your student account. If you have questions, contact the Office of Financial Aid.

Help with Uninsured Medical and Emergency Dental Costs

If your total parental contribution (before adjusting for number of children in college) is \$5,000 or less, you may qualify for assistance with medical and dental expenses that are not covered by

health insurance. These can include prescription co-payments, emergency dental care (to provide pain relief) or glasses.

Students who are eligible for assistance with medical and dental expenses need to remember that only expenses incurred **when classes are in session** are covered (**not during Interterm or summer break**) so students should plan to use other resources to cover on-going expenses during non-academic terms.

Please consult the Office of Financial Aid for further information.

Taxable Scholarship and Grant Aid

If your scholarship and grant aid in 2014 exceeded tuition, required fees, and book expenses you should report the excess scholarship and grant amount in your income tax return (earnings from student employment are taxable like any other wages). Detailed information is available on our website at https://www.amherst.edu/offices/financialaid/taxable_scholarships.

An international student's tax situation may be more complex. The College is required by law to withhold taxes from scholarships and issue a Form 1042-S to each student indicating the amount of potentially taxable scholarship and the amount withheld. In some cases, tax treaties affect the amount that may be taxed.

If you receive Amherst College Scholarship and you owe taxes due to your scholarship, you can request a grant to pay the taxes owed. To request a grant you must submit a copy of your completed tax worksheet and your completed tax return prior to **April 15th**.

Plan Ahead for Aid Refunds and Advances

If you have a credit balance on your student account, you may request a refund of the excess amount, or, if your financial aid will result in a credit balance, you may request a cash advance. Please plan ahead in making your requests. Checks for financial aid refunds and advances are prepared by the Controller's Office on Thursdays. We must submit check requests by the close of business on Tuesdays. Checks are mailed to students' post office boxes on Friday afternoons.

Spring break is coming. Refund requests should be made no later than **March 10**.

If You Are Planning on Studying Away...

Students who are planning on studying away from Amherst during Fall, 2015 - study abroad or at another U.S. institution - should set an appointment in the spring semester with Dean Kate Gentile to discuss the financial aid process. Please call our Financial Aid Assistant at (413) 542-

2296 to set an appointment. Information about financial aid and study away from the College is available on our Web site — https://www.amherst.edu/offices/financialaid/studyabroad_aid.

Support Is Available for “Senior Expenses”

Amherst scholarship recipients in the Class of 2015 who have “senior expenses” can ask for assistance from the financial aid office. Senior expenses include graduate school application and testing costs, resume preparation, and unreimbursed interview costs, such as travel expenses for interviews.

Students whose total parental contribution (before adjusting for number of children in college) is \$5,000 or less may qualify for a Dean's Discretionary Grant of as much as \$400. Additional expenses of as much as \$2,000 may be covered through an Amherst College Loan. For students who receive scholarship aid from the College and whose total parental contribution is more than \$5,000, College student loan assistance is available.

Requests for assistance with senior expenses should be made in writing and must include documentation for the total costs.

Graduating Seniors with Student Loans Must Complete Exit Counseling

If you borrowed a Federal Stafford Loan, you should do the exit counseling on-line at <https://www.dl.ed.gov/borrower/CounselingSessions.do>. The link is also on our website at: <https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/index.action>.

If you borrowed a Federal Perkins Loan or an Amherst College Loan, we will e-mail you in the latter part of your final semester to arrange for exit counseling.

Work Off-Campus Next Summer with Federal Work-Study

US citizens and Permanent Residents may work off-campus during the summer under the Federal Work-Study program. In general, students may work for non-profit organizations and government agencies in jobs that are “for the public good.” Fuller details, including limitations, are available on the financial aid office's website:

https://www.amherst.edu/campuslife/student_employment/off_campus

Applications are also available from the office or on the Web site at:

<https://www.amherst.edu/system/files/media/FWS%2520Off-Campus%2520Application.pdf>.

Off-campus positions require us to contract with the employing organization for a set amount of earnings and a specified time period of employment, so particular attention must be paid to those parts of the application.

Students who work under the FWS program during the summer are expected to save toward their academic year expenses, but the program allows reasonable expenses for living costs during the summer. In most cases a student can submit a "Student Income Contribution" appeal at the end of summer so that we can adjust the expected savings to account for the student's living expenses.

► Beware of Earnings Limits in Off-Campus Work-Study

Students working off-campus under the Federal Work-Study program should monitor their earnings total so that they won't go over their authorized earnings limits. Federal rules require us to contract with the employing organization for a set amount of earnings. Students can't be paid more than the contract allows. We can advise you if you have questions about your earnings to date and what remains on your contract.

International Students Working On-Campus this Summer

Summer earnings are intended to support living expenses during non-academic periods. The usual expectation is that international students will earn enough to support themselves during the summer. Earnings beyond a reasonable level of expenses (typically \$3,000) are usually considered to be savings for the following academic year. If you will be working on campus this summer and earn more than this amount, a contribution from your earnings will be expected toward next year's educational costs. Please confer with us about what savings will be expected of you.

Last Day for New Spring Semester Loan Requests

Students who intend to request additional loan funds for the spring semester should be advised the last day to do so will be Tuesday, **May 5th**. It is important to plan ahead!