

GARRETT-EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Office of Financial Aid Financial Aid Handbook 2018-2019

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, a graduate school of theology related to The United Methodist Church, was founded in 1853. Located on the campus of Northwestern University, the seminary serves students from various denominations and cultural backgrounds, fostering an atmosphere of ecumenical interaction. Garrett-Evangelical creates bold leaders through master of divinity, master of arts, master of theological studies, doctor of philosophy, and doctor of ministry degrees. Its 4,500 living alumni serve church and society around the world



Financial Aid Contact Information

2121 N Sheridan Rd.
Evanston, IL 60201
847-866-3987 (t)
847-866-3899 (f)
jason.gill@garrett.edu
garrett.edu/admissions/costs-and-financial-aid

Types of Financial Aid

Listed below are the different types of financial aid available to students who qualify. For more detailed information about each type of aid, please see later sections of this manual.

Gift Aid (Scholarships, Fellowships, and Grants)

Gift aid can come directly from Garrett-Evangelical or from other outside sources. As the name implies, gift aid does not have to be paid back.

Institutional Scholarships

Garrett-Evangelical awards scholarships to masters-level, degree-seeking students at the time of admission to recognize merit, leadership, service, and accomplishment. Scholarships cover a percentage of a student's tuition while enrolled for a degree; that percentage remains constant, as long as the student meets both registration and GPA requirements of the scholarship.

Institutional Fellowships

Garrett-Evangelical awards fellowships to PhD-degree seeking students at the time of admission. Fellowships cover a fixed percentage of the student's tuition while enrolled for the degree.

Outside Grants

Outside (non-institutional) grants and scholarships are typically awarded by denominational foundations, conferences, and/or local churches. Any outside scholarship awarded to a student must be reported to the financial aid office, as the award could impact the amount of federal financial aid eligibility.

Veteran Benefits

Garrett-Evangelical is approved to receive Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits. Eligible students must submit a copy of their Certificate of Eligibility to the Registrar's Office when they first enroll. Registrations are confirmed with the VA each term.

Loan Aid

Loan aid is borrowed money which must be repaid with interest. There are both federal and private sources of loan aid, though the large majority of loan aid is federal.

Federal Direct Loans

The Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford and Federal Direct Graduate PLUS are offered to eligible students. To determine eligibility, a student must complete and file an Application for

Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each year of enrollment.

Private Loans

A variety of banks and other agencies offer student loans, but often, these loans are not as advantageous to the student as federal loans are. Students are encouraged to consult with the Financial Aid Office before taking out a private student loan.

Work Aid

Work aid is a broad category that includes a variety of employment options. Federal Work-Study, field education stipends, teaching and research assistantships, and personal employment opportunities are all considered work aid.

Federal Work-Study (FWS)

Federal Work-Study is a need-based financial aid award. To determine eligibility, a student must complete and file an Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each year of enrollment. Those who qualify and secure a work-study position are paid an hourly wage, which is subsidized by the federal government, and are issued paychecks typically every two weeks. Only jobs at Garrett-Evangelical or at other pre-approved sites are eligible for FWS funding.

Field Education

Master of Divinity students must complete two field education units as a requirement of the degree. A \$4,000 stipend is awarded during each year to help support students financially during these important experiences.

Teaching Assistants, Classroom Assistants, and Research Assistants

TA, CA, and RA positions are available, primarily to doctoral students, throughout the year. The accompanying stipends are paid to these assistants at the end of the semester or term of service.

Personal Employment

Many students work part-time in an off-campus job to help cover their personal expenses. These positions typically do not qualify for FWS funding.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF AID

Families, home churches, conferences, districts, presbyteries, parishes, dioceses, etc. can often be important and generous sources of financial assistance. The Financial Aid Office and the Development Office at Garrett-Evangelical are pleased to discuss with students helpful ways to ask others for financial assistance.

Tuition and Fees for 2018-19

In the interest of full disclosure and for the purpose of student financial planning, Garrett-Evangelical provides the following list of tuition and fees assessed directly to students as required.

[For a comprehensive list of charges including housing, meal plans, please see the financial aid section of the Garrett-Evangelical website.]

Masters-Level and Non-Degree

Tuition	755	per credit hour
Tuition for Clinical Pastoral Education courses	100	per credit hour
MTS research fee (course #60-693)	1510	per term
MTS continuance fee (course #60-695)	755	per term
Audit Fee	75	per credit hour

Doctor of Ministry (DMin)

Tuition: Spiritual Direction	625	per credit hour
Tuition: Congregational Leadership	750	per credit hour
Tuition: Strategic Leadership for Black Congregations	750	per credit hour
Tuition: Community Organizing (Cohort 2016)	305	per credit hour
Tuition: Community Organizing (Cohort 2018)	625	per credit hour
Program Installment: Preaching as Leadership in Hispanic/Latinx Congregations (Cohort 18-19)	4850	1 of 6 installments for program
Program Installment: Strategic Leadership in Black Congregations (18-19)	4850	1 of 6 installments for program
Program Installment: Spiritual Direction (18-19)	4850	1 of 6 installments for program
Pre-candidacy study (course #80-746)	610	per term (up to two terms)
Pre-candidacy study (course #80-748)	1830	per term (beyond two term)
Project research (course #80-795)	1830	per term
Project continuance (course #80-710)	610	per term (up to two terms)
Project continuance (course #80-720)	1830	per term (beyond two terms)

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Tuition	1335	per credit hour
Examination preparation (course #90-980)	1335	per semester (up to two semesters)
Pre-candidacy study (course #90-985)	4005	per semester (beyond two semesters)
Research (course #90-990)	4005	per semester (year one)
Research (course #90-995)	1335	per semester (year two and three)
Research continuance (course #90-997)	4005	per semester (year four and five)
PhD extension (course #90-998)	1335	per semester (year six and seven)

STUDENT AND TECHNOLOGY FEES

Student Fee (if at 5 or more credit hours)	116	per term
Student Fee (if at 1-4 credit hours)	58	per term
Technology Fee (if at 5 or more credit hours)	260	per term
Technology Fee (if at 1-4 credit hours)	130	per term

Financial Aid Calendar for 2018-19

Scholarships and loans are posted to student accounts after the last day to add classes each semester/term. Students can request a check from the credit balance in their accounts after the last day to drop classes each semester/term.

Requested credit balance checks will be ready for pick-up on the third Tuesday of each semester.

Fall Semester

First day of classes – September 4
Last day to add classes – September 10
Scholarship and loans posted – September 12
Last day to drop classes – September 17
Check requests available – September 18

January Term

First day of classes – January 7
Last day to drop – January 8
Scholarship and loans posted – January 9

Spring Semester

First day of classes – February 4
Last day to add classes – February 8
Scholarship and loans posted – February 13
Last day to drop classes – February 15
Check requests available – February 19

Summer Term

First day of classes – June 17
Last day to drop – June 18
Scholarship and loans posted – June 19

[For a more detailed academic calendar, please see the 2018-2019 Academic Handbook.]

Cost of Attendance

Cost of Attendance (COA) is the estimated total amount it costs to attend an educational institution for an academic year. This includes all allowable expenses such as tuition, room, board, books and supplies, reasonable personal expenses, and, if applicable, dependent care expenses. A student's actual expenses may differ from their COA, but the total amount of financial aid (scholarships, grants, loans, and work-study) cannot exceed their COA.

Educational institutions determine a COA figure each academic year for two reasons:

1. to give students an estimate of the total costs involved in attending, and
2. to determine, according to mandatory federal guidelines, the amount of federal financial aid students are eligible for that year.

Typically, COA budgets are based on 9 months of full-time attendance (Sept.-May), but adjustments are made according to the student's actual enrollment.

Cost of Attendance (COA) is made up of two different types of costs: direct and indirect.

Direct costs (also known as billable costs) are billed to the student's account and include items such as tuition, fees, meal plan, and Garrett-based housing.

Indirect costs do not appear on a student's account. They are the estimated costs of expenses such as books and transportation. For those not living in Garrett-based housing and/or for those not on a Garrett meal plan, indirect costs also include food and housing expenses (also known as living expenses). When determining the estimated living expenses portion of the COA for an academic year, the Garrett Financial Aid Committee uses a College Board formula, which is based on costs in the Chicago metropolitan area.]

It is important to remember that indirect costs are estimates. For that reason, each student is encouraged to develop a personal budget at the beginning of each academic year. If necessary, a student can then use that document to petition the Financial Aid Committee for a COA living expenses adjustment. According to federal guidelines, the Committee has the authority to exercise professional judgment to approve allowable adjustments.

Note:

Students filing petitions need to know that the Financial Aid Committee has limited adjusted COA living expenses to no more than 150% of the COA living expenses figure published for that academic year.

So, the 9-month 2018-2019 budget of \$19,290 may not be adjusted over \$28,935. And the 12-month 2018-19 budget of \$25,720 may not be adjusted over \$38,580.

Costs of Attendance for 2018-2019 Degree Programs

All Masters-Level Degrees

Tuition (assuming 27 hours)	20,385 (755 per credit hour for all others)
Student and Technology Fees	940
Books and Supplies	1620 (65 per credit hour)
Living Expenses (9 months)	19,290
Total	<hr/> 42,235

Doctor of Philosophy

Tuition (assuming 21 hours)	28,035
Student and Technology Fees	940
Books and Supplies	2100 (100 per credit hour)
Living Expenses (9 months)	19,290
Total	<hr/> 50,365

Doctor of Ministry

Note: Since Doctor of Ministry programs are considered non-residential, the Cost of Attendance includes only direct costs associated with the program: tuition, fees, and Garrett-based housing and meal-plans (for the intensive terms.)

Congregational Leadership, Strategic Leadership for Black Congregations, Spiritual Direction and Community Organizing DMin Tracks

Due to the variety of registration situations and tuition differences between the different Doctor of Ministry tracks, student award letters are tailored individually for each student.

Books and supplies are packaged at \$100 a credit hour.

ACTS DMin Preaching Track

The program has a set cohort tuition rate which is packaged for each summer session.

Student and technology fees are \$360

Housing is packaged at \$60 a day for 21 days, or \$1260.

Meals are packaged at \$750 for term.

Books and supplies are packaged at \$100 a credit hour.

Institutional Scholarships: Awards and Stipulations

Master-Degree Level Scholarships

Awards: The Admission and Scholarship Committee at Garrett-Evangelical is charged with awarding institutional scholarships to incoming students. Priority consideration is given to students who complete their applications by February 1 (March 1 for international students) for the following fall admission. Students entering under probation status may not be eligible for an award.

Each scholarship or grant covers a specified percentage of tuition for each credit hour taken, up to the total required to complete the degree.

Scholarships and grants apply to credit hours taken during summer and January terms, also.

Stipulations: Institutional scholarships stipulate minimum registration and minimum GPA. If a student does not maintain minimum registration their scholarship is reduced to 25%. The only exception to the minimum enrollment stipulation is for students who are in the last semester of their degree; they may register as part-time students and still receive their scholarships at the full-time enrollment rate.

Institutional scholarships also require students to maintain a cumulative 3.0 GPA and good academic standing. Students who do not meet their scholarship GPA requirement or are placed on academic probation may have their scholarships reduced to 25%.

All scholarship stipulation requirements are reviewed at the time of awarding for each semester/term.

In addition, scholarships may require recipients to write letters of appreciation annually to the donor(s) of the award or share other acts of thanksgiving.

Additions: Scholarships do not cover off-site Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) costs, but does cover CPE tuition costs at the student's stipulated scholarship percentage rate.

Except in the cases of pre-approved leaves of absence, students who are not enrolled over the course of year forfeit their scholarships.

The Admission and Scholarship Committee retains the ability to revise scholarships under special circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

Doctor of Philosophy Scholarship Awarding and Stipulations

The PhD Committee is charged with awarding scholarships to incoming PhD students. The typical PhD award is 100% of tuition. A PhD scholarship covers the cost of the earned credit hours, research tools, one semester of pre-candidacy (exam preparation), and two semesters of candidacy (dissertation) required to complete the program.

A PhD student taking a research tool outside of Garrett-Evangelical may receive the same scholarship rate to cover the cost of the outside course (e.g., If a German language course at

The University of Chicago is \$1500, a Garrett PhD student with a 100% scholarship would be eligible for a \$1500 scholarship.) To receive the scholarship, a student must submit a completed Research Tool Intention Form to the Garrett-Evangelical Financial Aid Office, along with a paid invoice for the course.

Doctor of Ministry Funding

Garrett-Evangelical does not award scholarships or grants for the Doctor of Ministry program. The Financial Aid Committee therefore strongly encourages Doctor of Ministry students to secure financial support from their ministry site and/or personal resources, as no institutional scholarships are awarded.

Federal Direct Loans

Garrett-Evangelical participates in the Direct Student Loan program and therefore offers Unsubsidized Stafford Loans and Graduate Plus Loans to its students who are U.S. citizens, permanent residents, or eligible non-citizens. Both loans require a student to 1) file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to establish eligibility, and 2) enroll on at least a part-time basis in a degree program.

Neither loan requires the borrower to demonstrate financial need, but a student may not borrow above their Cost of Attendance (see Cost of Attendance section above.)

The Department of Education assigns a servicer to the borrower when the loan funds are disbursed. Students must continue to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress to be eligible for federal loan aid. Neither of these loan programs penalizes a borrower for early repayment.

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan

- Graduate students may borrow up to \$20,500 annually. The lifetime Stafford Loan limit, which includes undergraduate Stafford Loans, is \$138,500.
- A credit check is not required for an Unsubsidized Stafford Loan.
- The loan has a fixed interest rate that is recalculated each year by the Department of Education. The graduate Unsubsidized Stafford Loan rate for 2018-19 is 6.6%.
- The Department of Education assesses a 1.068% origination fee that is deducted at the time of each loan disbursement. Therefore, the total amount a borrower receives at each disbursement will be 1.068% less than what the student borrowed for that period of enrollment. The borrower is responsible for repaying the total amount borrowed, however.
- Interest accrues on these loans while the student is in school and during the 6-month grace period after separation, or if the student falls below half-time status.
- Repayment begins six months after the borrower graduates or when the student drops below part-time enrollment.

Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan

- PLUS loans are packaged only after Stafford Loan eligibility has been exhausted. A student may borrow a PLUS Loan up to the difference between the Cost of Attendance and other financial aid.
- A credit check is required and is conducted by the Department of Education. If a student does not pass the credit check, a qualified endorser (co-signer) may be used to qualify for the loan or a student may appeal the credit decision.
- The loan has a fixed interest rate that is recalculated each year by the Department of Education. The Graduate PLUS Loan rate for 2018-19 is 7.6%.
- The Department of Education assess a 4.272% origination fee that is deducted at the time of each loan disbursement. Therefore, the total amount a borrower receives at each disbursement will be 4.272% less than what the student borrowed for that period of enrollment. The borrower is responsible for repaying the total amount borrowed, however.
- Interest accrues on these loans while the student is in school and during the 6-month grace period after separation, or if the student falls below half-time status.
- Repayment begins six months after the borrower graduates or when the student drops below part-time enrollment.

Applying for Federal Loans

Step One – Complete the annual FAFSA

A student seeking federal loans must complete an online Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) which is found at FAFSA.ed.gov.

The 2018-19 FAFSA requires students to use 2016 tax documents.

The 2019-20 FAFSA requires students to use 2017 tax documents.

Students may complete the 2019-20 FAFSA beginning on October 1, 2017.

Garrett-Evangelical's school code FAFSA code is: GO1682.

Step Two – Accept the financial aid award

After the Financial Aid Office receives a student's FAFSA information, a financial aid award letter is created and sent to the student's institutional email address. The award letter lists the student's Cost of Attendance, institutional scholarship, and loan eligibility.

To accept or adjust the amount of loan aid listed in the letter, a student must complete the second page of the award letter, which is the Audit Form, and return it electronically to the Financial Aid Office.

Step Three – Complete a Master Promissory Note and entrance counseling

Students borrowing for the first time at Garrett-Evangelical must complete the Entrance Counseling process and Master Promissory Note. Both can be found on studentloans.gov.

Once a student completes both processes (about 30 minutes), a receipt of completion is sent to the Financial Aid Office.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

Federal regulations require educational institutions to review regularly the academic progress of students who receive federal financial aid. At Garrett-Evangelical, reviews are conducted at the end of every fall and spring semester. Both qualitative and quantitative measures are used to assess Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) toward the completion of a student's degree. Students who fail to meet the SAP may become ineligible to receive federal financial aid until they are in compliance with these requirements.

Satisfactory academic progress should not be confused with academic probation.

[For more information on academic probation please refer to the Academic Handbook.]

Qualitative Standard

A minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) is a qualitative standard required to maintain SAP. The minimum cumulative GPA required to meet SAP reflects the minimum GPA required for the completion of a degree. Master degree and Doctor of Ministry students must maintain a 2.5 GPA, and Doctor of Philosophy students must maintain a 3.0 GPA. The Registrar's Office verifies student GPAs at the end of each semester.

Quantitative Standard

To demonstrate SAP using a qualitative standard, students must continue to complete successfully 70% of all attempted credit hours. The total attempted credit hours are compared with the total number of successfully completed credit hours for the semesters/terms attended, regardless of whether or not financial aid was received. For example, a first-year student who has attempted 27 credit hours by the end of their second semester must successfully complete at least 19 of those credit hours.

Maximum Time Frame

The maximum time frame for federal financial aid mirrors the academic limits for each degree program. Leaves of absence count toward these time limits.

Master of Divinity program – 8 years (16 consecutive semesters)

Master of Arts and Master of Theological Studies – 6 years (12 consecutive semesters)

Doctor of Ministry – 6 years (12 consecutive semesters)

Doctor of Philosophy – 5 years (10 semesters) for course work

5 years (10 semesters) for pre-candidacy and candidacy

No more than a total of 8 years (16 semesters)

Appeals approved by the PhD committee may allow leaves of absence to not count toward these time limits.

Clarification of Course Notation

Transfer credit hours are considered hours attempted and earned, and do not affect the student's GPA.

Audited courses neither affect attempted hours nor GPA.

Pass/Fail courses count toward the total of attempted credit hours and if passed, earned hours. If failed, the course impacts the GPA.

Repeated courses, if passed, nullify the previous failed credit hours attempted and GPA. The repeated course is then treated like any other normal for-grade course. If the course is failed again, both failed courses attempted hours and GPA are counted.

Incomplete courses are either rendered failed or withdrawn, as courses cannot be permanently left as incomplete.

Withdrawn courses impact attempted credit hours, but do not affect GPA.

Students completing a second degree are monitored like any other student under this policy.

Federal Financial Aid Warning

The first time students do not meet either the qualitative or quantitative standards, they are notified that they are currently not meeting SAP and placed on warning. The student will be on warning until the next SAP review. Under warning students are still eligible for federal financial aid.

Federal Financial Aid Suspension

Students on warning that are still not making SAP after a semester are placed on suspension, meaning they are ineligible for federal financial aid. Students are notified of their suspension status. A student has the right to appeal the suspension.

Suspension Appeal Process

Students under suspension have the option to appeal so as to regain federal financial aid eligibility. It is up to the student to initiate an appeal. Academic reinstatement back to the seminary does not also provide reinstatement of federal financial aid eligibility, nor does a leave of absence. The only way to regain federal financial aid eligibility is to being making SAP or to successfully make an appeal while on suspension.

An appeal is reviewed based on documented extenuating circumstances impacting academic performance. Extenuating circumstances are past events that will no longer impede future academic success. Some examples of extenuating circumstances to be considered for appeal: Serious illness or injury, death of an immediate family member, significant physical or emotional trauma, military service, or other unexpected circumstances beyond the control of the student.

Students are encouraged to file an appeal with the Financial Aid Office within 15 days of being notified of suspension. The appeal should provide details on the extenuating circumstances, why those circumstances will not impact future academic success, and an academic plan approved by the student's advisor. The appeal will be reviewed by the Appeals Committee; the decision of the committee is final. The student will be notified of the outcome. Federal financial eligibility will be reinstated to those students who successfully appeal. Students whose appeals are denied continue to be ineligible for federal financial aid, but this does not affect their academic standing.

Financial Aid – Return to Title IV (R2T4) Policy

This policy describes the conditions under which Title IV funds (federal student aid that includes Unsubsidized Direct Loans and Direct Graduate PLUS Loans) need to be returned to the U.S. Department of Education. Title IV funds are awarded under the assumption that the student will attend school for the entire period for which the assistance is offered. Federal regulations mandate the return of financial aid funds if a student withdraws within a certain time frame during the enrollment period. Since a student begins earning Title IV funds on the first day of attendance, the school may be required to perform a return calculation if the student withdraws. This process is called the Return of Title IV and uses the number of days in attendance and the total days in the enrollment period to determine and return a percentage of funds.

Other non-Title IV aid may be contingent upon enrollment status and credit hours. These non-Title IV awards may be adjusted as a result of withdrawal, leave of absence, or less-than part-time status.

Calculating Title IV Returns

If a student has completed more than 60% of the enrollment period, they will be considered to have earned 100% of the Title IV aid for that period, and no funds would need to be returned. The school will still determine whether the student is eligible for a post-withdrawal disbursement.

For students who have completed less than 60% of the enrollment period, the amount of Title IV aid that the student has earned will be calculated by the Financial Aid Office using the Department of Education worksheet *Treatment of Title IV Funds When a Student Withdraws from a Credit-Hour Program*. The seminary must return unearned Title IV aid as soon as possible, but no later than 45 days from the determination of a student's withdrawal and within 14 days of completing the return calculations for the student.

Funds will be returned in this order: Unsubsidized Direct Loans, Graduate PLUS Loans.

Post-Withdrawal Disbursement

If a student did not receive all of the Title IV funds that they have earned, they may be due to receive a post-withdrawal disbursement. If the post-withdrawal disbursement included federal student loan funds, they may choose to decline the loan funds in order to not incur additional student loan debt. The seminary may automatically use all or a portion of a post-withdrawal disbursement (including student loan funds), if you accept them for tuition, fees, and room and board charges (as contracted with the school). For any other school charges, the seminary needs your permission to use the post-withdrawal disbursement. If you do not grant this permission, you will be offered the funds. However, it may be in your best interest to allow the school to keep the funds to reduce your debt to the school.

Determining Withdrawal Date

An official withdrawal date is set when a student submits a request to officially withdraw with the Registrar's Office or starts the process to withdraw. A Return of Title IV funds calculation will be made within 45 days of an official withdrawal.

For purpose of Title IV aid, a leave of absence during an enrollment period is considered an official withdrawal.

An unofficial withdrawal is when a student stops attending classes, or has not completed the work required for all classes and consequently receives all 'W's or 'F's for an enrollment period. The student will be considered to have withdrawn at the end of the enrollment period. A Return of Title IV funds calculation will be made within 45 days of the end of the enrollment period.

Emergency Loans

Such a loan is available when circumstances warrant a declaration of an emergency (i.e., an unexpected circumstance, not an inadequate budget). Up to \$500 may be borrowed without interest, on the condition that the loan is paid back by the end of the semester. Only one emergency loan is available per student, per academic year. Students requesting an emergency loan must register for and complete a financial literacy course. Any funds coming into the student's account (loans, scholarships, etc.) are applied to the emergency loan first. Only one loan may be approved per academic year, and no loan may be granted to pay a seminary bill. The person responsible for administering this fund is the Director of Financial Aid.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: If I need money to attend seminary, where should I go and what should I do first?

A: Your first steps should be to reach out to your denomination, conference/district, and local church to learn about scholarships and funding they may offer. This is great practice in stewardship for both you and your church. Always remember that it is not inappropriate to ask for financial support.

Q: I received an outside scholarship, when will it post to my student account?

A: You should contact your scholarship sources to find out when when your scholarship check will be mailed to Garrett. (Some scholarship checks are sent out much later than students realize; Dollars for Scholars checks, e.g., are often not received until October.) When the check for your outside scholarship is received, it will usually be processed on the day of receipt and posted directly to your student account.

Q: How do I become eligible for federal financial aid?

A: To apply for an unsubsidized Stafford Loan and federal Work-Study, you need to complete a [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA). The school code for Garrett is G01682. The Financial Aid Office will email your financial aid award letter to you about one week after the Financial Aid Office has received your FAFSA information.

Q: How do I qualify to be considered for federal aid?

A: You must

- be a United States citizen or permanent resident
- be admitted and enrolled at least part-time in a program leading to a degree
- not be in default on a federal educational loan or be going through personal bankruptcy

Final determination is completed through the Financial Aid Office and is shared with you by means of a financial aid award letter. You can expect your award letter for the upcoming academic year around late March.

Q: I/My spouse/My parents made a lot of money last year. Could I still be eligible for federal aid?

A: Yes. For financial aid purposes, you should know that graduate students are considered *independent* regardless of age or tax filing status. And, remember that Unsubsidized Stafford Loans do not consider financial need when determining eligibility.

A graduate student can also be considered for Federal Work-Study (FWS) which is based on financial need. That means that the student's Estimated Family Contribution (EFC), which takes into account the income of the student's spouse also, is used to determine eligibility.

Q: I was awarded Federal Work-Study as part of my financial aid at Garrett. How do I find a job on campus?

A: Garrett-Evangelical hires dozens of students each year to help in a variety of positions around the seminary, however being awarded Federal Work-Study does not guarantee a job. Open positions are posted on MyGets.

Q: I have previous student loans do I need to keep paying on them while in school?

A: It depends, but probably not. If you are registered at least part-time each semester (5 hours or more for MDiv, MTS and MA students, 3 hours or more for PhD students) your student loans are eligible for in-school deferment status. While in deferment you are not required to make payments, but unsubsidized loans will still accrue interest. The Registrar's Office will update the National Clearinghouse that will automatically change your repayment status. Some school-based Perkins loans do not use the Clearinghouse, so it is up to you to check and, if needed, individually request deferment status.

Q: How do I calculate my institutional scholarship?

A: For Master degree students, institutional scholarships cover a percentage of tuition. So, first calculate your tuition for the term: credit hours x credit hour cost = tuition.

For scholarship aid a student must be at least part-time for the fall and spring semester.

Scholarships requires student maintain minimum GPA and registration requirements. If either isn't met, the scholarship rate is reduced to 25% of tuition.

Consider two examples:

Student 1 –

\$724 cost per credit hour, 11 hours registered, 50% scholarship, meeting GPA requirements

$$\$724 \times 11 = \$7964 \text{ tuition}$$

$$\$7964 \times 50\% = \$3982 \text{ scholarship}$$

Student 2 –

\$724 cost per credit hour, 11 hours registered, 40% scholarship, not meeting GPA requirements

$$\$724 \times 11 = \$7964 \text{ tuition}$$

$$\$7964 \times 25\% = \$1991$$

The second student is only eligible for a 25% scholarship because she is not meeting her GPA requirements.

Q: When can I get my student loan refund?

A: When your loan aid exceeds the amount of charges posted to your student account you are eligible for a student loan refund. This refund can be used to cover living expenses and other education related costs.

In general, requested credit balance checks will be ready for pick-up on the third Tuesday of the semester.

See the Financial Aid Calendar above for other important dates.