

Duke Financial Aid Policies and Procedures

Guiding Principles

Duke University views its financial aid program as an investment in students and their futures. We seek a diverse student body and are committed to ensuring that aided students can take full advantage of the Duke experience. To that end, Duke admits U.S. citizens, permanent residents and a limited number of foreign students without regard to financial circumstance or aid eligibility and meets 100 percent of each admitted student's demonstrated need throughout their nine semesters of potential undergraduate enrollment.

Duke, like many similar institutions, uses the 568 Presidents' Group Consensus Approach to Needs Analysis to determine each student's family contribution. This formula, whose guiding principles are articulated under Bulletin Board/Tips on this page, is designed to ensure that families with similar circumstances contribute similar amounts while families with different financial circumstances contribute proportionally different amounts toward a student's annual attendance costs. Duke does not "negotiate" financial aid, but does consider extenuating circumstances that may affect a family's ability to support educational expenses. Applicants are encouraged to submit dollar-specific details relative to any extenuating or unusual circumstances that affect their ability to support educational expenses.

In addition to need-based scholarships, grants and loans, merit scholarships are integral to Duke's financial aid program. Although all merit scholarships are awarded at the time of admission on the basis of academic distinction, other factors -- such as leadership, musical talent and other unique characteristics -- are considered. Several of these programs are awarded without regard to a student's demonstrated need. Recipients who meet the specified academic standards will retain their merit scholarship for the four years they are enrolled at Duke. Applicants for admission are considered for all available merit scholarships. No specific scholarship application is available or required.

Confidentiality

The Financial Aid Office does not provide copies of application documents to anyone other than the signatory of the requested document. If you want copies of your parents' application documents, you must ask your parents to send written release to the Financial Aid Office, specifying which of their documents can be released to you. Similarly, if your parents request copies of your documents that contain your information, you must first sign a written release. Your parents' financial information cannot be discussed with you unless they have provided us with written authorization to do so.

Duke University does not share information on its enrolled students and does not participate in programs that use University information for statistical research.

Please realize that if you accept a scholarship from Duke University we may share the student's name, major and hometown with the donor of the scholarship. We will not share financial information or other personal information with the donor. In some instances, we will ask scholarship recipients to write thank you notes to the person who made the scholarship possible.