

PAYING YOUR BILL

Meeting the Parent Contribution

We understand that paying for college is not easy and requires some level of sacrifice for every family. With this in mind we have created an array of options that we believe will be helpful to families from a wide variety of financial circumstances.

We encourage each family to create an individualized strategy that fits their circumstances and that takes advantage of a number of the various options now available. As you develop your family strategy, we would encourage you to consider paying for college over a longer period than the four years your student will be enrolled. Just as with other family expenses, paying over time creates flexibility and enhances the family's buying power.

Some options to consider include:

Short Term Payment Plan

Duke University offers a payment plan through Tuition Management Systems (TMS). This option allows students and parents to make monthly payments over the course of the year rather than making a large, single payment or taking out more loans than you need. For more details, please visit Tuition Management's website at www.afford.com/duke.

Parent PLUS

Parent loan and financing options may help your parents meet the expected contribution. These options are also available to families who do not qualify for financial aid but wish to spread out the payment of educational costs over time. Federal PLUS loans are available for parents to borrow up to the full cost of attendance, minus, financial aid received, from a participating bank or credit union. The Student Loan Office must certify enrollment and eligibility for the PLUS loan. Many lenders have pre-approval processes for a quick assessment of eligibility.

The PLUS loan interest rate is fixed at 8.5%. Repayment begins within sixty days of the disbursement of funds and may extend up to ten years. By federal regulation, disbursements are made on a semester basis. We process PLUS Loan applications in the summer prior to the Fall term, which allows sufficient time for funds to be available by the fall semester due date.

Financial Aid Funds Disbursement

All financial aid funds will disburse in even halves each semester, including student loans. So a Stafford loan, for example, for \$3,500 has two \$1,750 disbursements at the beginning of each semester.

Several types of financial aid are reflected on your university bill. They include:

- Funds from university, federal, and state scholarships and grants.
- Outside scholarship/grants received by the Bursar's Office
- Loan proceeds, which are considered anticipated until the funds are received from the lender and you are enrolled in classes.

If credits from university, federal, and state scholarships, grants, and loans exceed the charges on your bill, you will receive a refund check for the excess amount.

Earnings from on-campus employment are paid twice each month on actual hours worked. Payment of these funds are paid directly to the student and not credited to the student account.

Funds are disbursed to the student account only after you have enrolled in classes, completed application procedures, and in the case of outside awards and loans, when the funds have been received at Duke. Aid awards will appear as "anticipated aid" on your student account until they can be disbursed.