



Financial Aid Notification Policy

Students who have been accepted for admission for whom the College has received results of the FAFSA on or before March 1st will receive need-based financial aid packages on or about May 1st. The packages will contain all financial aid awards offered by and through UM-Helena with directions as to how to accept and receive the awards. After May 1st, students will receive financial aid packages as they are admitted to the College and the results of the FAFSA become available.

Approximately 30% of all FAFSA applicants are selected for a process called verification by the Department of Education. In this process, UM-Helena will be comparing information from the FAFSA with signed copies of the student (and/or parent's/spouse's) federal tax forms, W-2 forms, or other financial documents. The law requires the college verify this information before awarding federal financial aid. If there are differences between the FAFSA information and supplied financial documents, UM-Helena will make corrections electronically and notify the student in writing.

Verification must be completed no later than 14 days prior to the end of the first semester of enrollment. A student's failure to complete verification will result in the cancellation of all federal and institutional need-based aid. In addition:

- No federal aid will be released until verification is completed.
- Students employed under the federal or state work-study programs cannot work more than 14 consecutive days from the beginning of the semester without completing verification.

In some cases, the Financial Aid Office will re-evaluate financial aid awards based on special circumstances. If a student or student's family have special needs or have recently experienced unusual financial circumstances, they should contact the Financial Aid Office to obtain a Special Circumstance form.

Accepting Financial Aid

- An Initial Notification Letter (INL) with estimated financial aid will be mailed to accepted students beginning May 1 or after UM-Helena receives FAFSA information.
- The student should acknowledge acceptance of the financial aid by accepting and returning to UM-Helena the financial aid notification and other required paperwork.
- Financial aid, except for work awards and book vouchers, will be credited directly to the student's account at the beginning of each semester.