2015-2016 Financial Aid Award Letter Guide

Eastern University participates in several federal and state financial aid programs to help reduce the economic barriers of attending college. Federal Student Aid programs are based on the principle that students (and their parent(s) or spouse, if applicable) are considered to be the primary source of financial support for postsecondary education. Financial aid is intended to supplement, not replace, family resources.

Rights and Responsibilities

Students accepting financial aid have certain rights and responsibilities and must comply with any rules, regulations and conditions governing such awards. Failure to read the Eastern University Catalog, Student Handbook and any other publication pertaining to financial aid does not excuse any student from compliance. Further information regarding rights and responsibilities may be obtained in the Financial Aid Office.

How Your Financial Aid is Determined

Cost of Attendance (COA): This figure is made up of direct costs to the student (tuition, room and board, fees) and related educational expenses (living, transportation, allowance for books and other miscellaneous expenses). To get exact costs for the current academic year, please refer to the Student Accounts webpage.

Estimated Family Contribution (EFC): This figure is determined from the results of a submitted FAFSA form. It measures the family’s financial ability to contribute to a students’ education. This is not related in any way to the amount you will be billed or that you may pay.

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\begin{align*}
\text{COA} - \text{EFC} &= \text{Financial Need}
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Financial Need: This figure represents the amount used by the Financial Aid Office to determine eligibility in all aid programs. It is our goal to meet as much of your Financial Need as possible with the resources available using federal, state, and institutional funds.

Award Letter Notifications

The enclosed Award Letter includes the following categories: GIFT AID, LOANS, and OTHER. GIFT AID represents awards that do not need to be paid back. LOANS represent funds that do need to be paid back. OTHER includes awards that have specific requirements or stipulations. You have the right to reduce or cancel any source of aid listed on the Award Letter. Simply email your changes to finaid@eastern.edu and remember to include the student’s name and ID#.

The Financial Aid Office also has the right to modify your financial aid awards at any time during the award year. Some of the reasons this would happen are change of enrollment status, receipt of outside scholarship or loan, change in housing status, failure to make Satisfactory Academic Progress, or as a result of the Federal Verification process. If selected for verification, need-based financial aid will not credit to your student account until this process is completed. Please review your intended Housing status as listed on your Award Letter: On Campus, Off Campus, or With Parent. If you need to change your status, please make the change directly on your 2015-2016 FAFSA and re-submit. For more information on the Financial Aid Awards and Processes, please visit our website: www.eastern.edu/offices-centers/financial-aid-office.

If our office needs any additional paperwork, you will receive email notification from us. Financial Aid documents can be submitted via email: finaid@eastern.edu, fax- 610-225-561, or US Mail: Financial Aid Office- 1300 Eagle Road- St. Davids, PA 19087-3696.