

Financial Aid

Christopher Newport University offers financial assistance to qualified graduate students to help pay for all or part of their college expenses. All students are encouraged to complete the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)* by February 1 to ensure aid is in place for the following academic year. FAFSA forms can be completed on the Web at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov> with the appropriate PIN number. Results are sent to the CNU Office of Financial Aid electronically, and students can expect to receive their offer of financial aid no later than June 30. Students who file their FAFSA late should be prepared to pay their tuition and expenses up front. Students must apply for financial aid every year using the FAFSA to continue to receive aid.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for financial aid, graduate students must:

- Be admitted as a degree-seeking student in an eligible graduate program;
- Be enrolled at least half-time;
- Be in good academic standing;
- Be making satisfactory academic progress;
- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen;
- Not owe a refund of a federal grant;
- Not be in default on a federal student loan.

Half-time students must be enrolled in at least five credits in the fall semester or in the spring semester, and a total of at least three credits for all summer sessions combined to receive aid. Total aid for the year cannot exceed federal annual loan limits established by the federal government and is limited by the cost of attendance (tuition, fees, room, board and miscellaneous expenses as defined by the Office of Financial Aid).

FEDERAL STAFFORD STUDENT LOAN

Graduate students may borrow up to \$20,500 per academic year, not to exceed the cost of attendance. Loans made under the Federal Stafford Student Loan program are at a fixed interest rate and are long-term, deferrable loans. These loans may be subsidized, unsubsidized, or a combination of both, based on the need of the student. Subsidized loans are interest free to the borrower as long as the student is enrolled at least half-time and are based on need. The maximum subsidized loan for a graduate student is \$8,500. If a student does not show need as determined by the FAFSA, the loan may be unsubsidized, and the interest that accrues while the loan is in deferment is the responsibility of the student. An additional unsubsidized loan of \$12,000 is available to graduate students, for a total of \$20,500 per year, not to exceed the cost of attendance. These loans are deferred until six months after the student graduates or stops attending half-time.

Loan proceeds are sent directly to CNU and applied to charges before any refunds are made to the student.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Graduate students are encouraged to seek outside scholarships as an additional source of funding to pay for college. The following is a list of suggested Web sites:

- <http://www.DirectScholar.com>
- <http://www.fastweb.com>
- <http://www.BrokeScholar.com>
- <http://www.scholarships.fatomei.com>
- <http://www.findtuition.com>
- <http://www.FreeCollegeScholarships.net>

When the Office of Financial Aid is notified of specific outside scholarship sources, they will be made available via e-mail to all students, on the Financial Aid Web site, and at the Office of Financial Aid.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Per federal regulations, students receiving financial aid must be making progress toward a degree. Students must remain in good academic standing and complete 75% of the courses attempted.

Budget Planning

Budget planning for attending CNU should consider both direct and indirect costs. Direct charges are tuition and fees (http://businessoffice.cnu.edu/fall_spring.htm). Indirect costs include but are not limited to room, board, books, transportation and miscellaneous expenses. Students should be prepared to pay out-of-pocket for books and initial living expenses, as student loans are not disbursed until the first week of classes.

Additional Information

Students interested in receiving financial aid should view the Christopher Newport University Web site at <http://financialaid.cnu.edu/>. Financial aid applications and individual guidance are available on a walk-in basis at the Office of Financial Aid, Administration Building, Room 203. You may also call the office at (757) 594-7170 or e-mail your questions to finaid@cnu.edu.

SHORT-TERM EMERGENCY LOANS

John Stephen Rasmussen Memorial Fund

This fund was established by the community in 1972, in memory of John Stephen Rasmussen, a 21-year-old student who lost his life in a fire while in the act of saving others. He was posthumously awarded a Carnegie Medal. Students may borrow, twice each Term, interest free, sums (funds permitting) for a period not to exceed 45 days. Applicants should present a valid Christopher Newport University student ID card when they apply to the Office of Student Accounts.

Emergency Loan Fund

An emergency loan fund was established in 1967 by the sophomore class, in honor of former CNU President James C. Windsor. Students may borrow interest free, sums for a period not to exceed 45 days. Students may receive no more than two emergency loans per academic term and each loan is limited to \$200, funds permitting. For emergency loan purposes, all summer terms equal one academic term. Applicants should present a valid Christopher Newport University student ID when they apply to the Office of Student Accounts.

GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS

Terms

The length of time a graduate student may receive an assistantship is a combination of four semesters and two summers in a two-year period. Types of assistantship activities: research and/or related activities, administration (e.g., of tutorial programs), or teaching and/or related activities. Additional employment cannot exceed 10 hours per week (1/4 time) without prior approval of the Director of Graduate Studies. If the assistantship requires 20 hours per week (1/2 time) then there can be no outside employment without prior approval of the Director of Graduate Studies.

Criteria

The degree-seeking graduate student must be enrolled as a full-time student, taking a minimum of six and a maximum of nine credit hours in the semester of the award. He/she must submit a Graduate Assistantship Application and the following: scores from the standardized test required for graduate program admission, graduate grade point average, undergraduate grade point average, two letters of reference, and an essay explaining how the award will further his/her career goals.

Application Procedures

Contact the Office of Graduate Studies at (757) 594-7544 or gradstdy@cnu.edu for a **Graduate Assistantship Application** and submit the application directly to your Graduate Program Coordinator with a copy to the Office of Graduate Studies.