HOOD COLLEGE
DIVISION OF ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT
Office of Financial Aid



CONDITIONS OF AWARD

Graduate Students

hood.edu/finaid

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OVERVIEW

The Office of Financial Aid at Hood College is committed to helping graduate students understand their financial aid options and responsibilities. This guide provides important information about funding opportunities, eligibility requirements, financial aid policies, and the conditions for receiving and maintaining your financial aid.

HOOD COLLEGE

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID

Joseph Henry Apple Academic Resource Center, Third Floor

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STUDENT ACCOUNTS

BILL PAYMENT

Tuition and fees are billed each semester. The fall balance is due August 15, and the spring balance is due January 15. Summer and winter charges are due before the first day of classes. Billing statements are available through Self-Service. Students are responsible for reviewing their accounts and making payment arrangements for any balance not covered by financial aid by the applicable deadline.

DISBURSEMENT OF AWARDS

Financial aid is applied directly to your student account once all eligibility and disbursement requirements have been met. Federal loan funds generally cannot be disbursed earlier than 10 days before classes begin.

Graduate students must be enrolled at least half-time to receive federal Direct Loans and must complete any required Master Promissory Note (MPN) and Entrance Counseling before their loans can be disbursed.

BOOKS

Hood College does not issue book vouchers or advance financial aid refunds for books. If your financial aid creates an eligible credit balance, a refund will be issued in accordance with federal requirements. Initial refunds are generally processed within 14 days after classes begin, with subsequent refunds processed as aid is applied.

Students should plan to purchase books and supplies before receiving their refunds.

2026-27 GRADUATE TUITION AND FEES

TUITION

GRADUATE PROGRAM	PER CREDIT
General Cluster	$535
Science Cluster	$715
Business Cluster	$725
Health Cluster	$850
MFA in Creative Writing	$570
Doctorate in Organizational Leadership	$1,065
Doctorate in Business Administration	$1,100
Nursing Degrees and Health Doctorates	$900
Educational Leadership Programs: Carroll, Montgomery and Washington Counties, Maryland; Berkeley County, West Virginia	$475
Audit (per credit)	$300





COMPREHENSIVE FEES

GRADUATE PROGRAM	PER SEMESTER
Non-Doctoral (including a 1-credit course)	**$145**
Non-Doctoral Summer	**$88**
Doctoral	**$600**
MFA in Creative Writing	**$1,000**
MFA in Creative Writing Residency	**$1,000**
MFA in Creative Writing Residency With On-Campus Accommodation (optional)	**$1,550**

Tuition is charged per credit. Fees listed above are charged per semester.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR COST OF ATTENDANCE

Your cost of attendance (COA) is the educational budget used to determine the maximum financial assistance you may receive. It combines tuition and applicable fees with allowances for housing, food, books, transportation and personal expenses. Your total financial assistance cannot exceed your applicable COA.

2026-27 STANDARD INDIRECT EXPENSE ALLOWANCES

EXPENSE	PER SEMESTER	ACADEMIC YEAR
Housing	$4,600	$9,200
Food	$3,600	$7,200
Books	$765	$1,530
Transportation	$1,000	$2,000
Personal/Miscellaneous	$1,000	$2,000
Total Indirect Allowances	$11,073	$22,146

These allowances are estimates for financial aid purposes and are not billed by Hood College. The annual amounts shown assume fall and spring enrollment. Students must be enrolled at least half-time to receive federal loans; enrollment and program length may affect the individual budget.





EXAMPLE: PART-TIME MASTER'S STUDENT

General Cluster, enrolled in one 3-credit course each semester for fall and spring (6 credits annually).

COST COMPONENT	ACADEMIC YEAR
Tuition: 6 credits × $535	**$3,210**
Comprehensive Fee: Two Semesters × $145	**$290**
Standard Indirect Expense Allowances	**$22,146**
Example Annual Cost of Attendance	**$25,646**

Your budget will vary by program, credits and applicable fees. Applicable federal loan fees may also be included in your individual budget. This example does not represent the amount you will be billed or guarantee eligibility to borrow the full budget.

GRADUATE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Explore scholarships, assistantships and educational benefits as part of your plan to pay for graduate school. Eligibility, availability and application requirements vary by opportunity.

GRADUATE AND TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

Graduate and teaching assistantships may provide a tuition waiver and/or stipend while offering professional experience. Review available positions and the terms of each appointment.

PROGRAM-SPECIFIC SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

Explore funding opportunities through your academic program and the Graduate School. Program pages provide information about available scholarships and grants.

ALTY ALUMNI BENEFITS

Hood undergraduate alumni who earned their bachelor's degree within the last three academic years may qualify for Alumni of the Last Three Years (ALTY) benefits, including a tuition waiver for their final three graduate credits. Eligibility requirements and restrictions apply. Visit hood.edu/ALTY for eligibility requirements, benefits and application information.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERS TUITION DISCOUNT

Eligible employees of participating organizations, their spouses and dependents may receive up to a 25% tuition discount for graduate certificate, master's and doctoral programs. The benefit is available to both part-time and full-time graduate students. Employment verification is required each semester, and applications must be submitted by the add/drop deadline. Restrictions on combining benefits with other assistance apply.

MILITARY AND VETERAN BENEFITS

Veterans and eligible dependents may qualify for educational benefits, including the Yellow Ribbon Program. Qualifying active-duty soldiers at Fort Detrick may also be eligible for tuition assistance and Hood's Fort Detrick tuition waiver program. Contact the Office of Financial Aid for guidance.

FINANCIAL PLANNING RESOURCES

GradSense offers graduate-focused resources to help you compare educational costs, plan funding, manage your budget and prepare for loan repayment.



MARYLAND STATE FINANCIAL AID

Maryland residents enrolled in eligible graduate programs may qualify for state scholarships and grants, including legislative scholarships and certain career-specific awards. Eligibility varies by program, enrollment status and available funding. Students are encouraged to visit **mhec.maryland.gov** to explore available programs, eligibility requirements and application deadlines.

REPORT OTHER EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE

Notify the Office of Financial Aid of scholarships, tuition waivers, employer assistance and other educational benefits. These resources may affect your financial aid eligibility and the amount you may borrow.

ASSISTANTSHIP TUITION WAIVERS

Graduate and teaching assistantship tuition waivers are subject to the terms of the appointment and the signed tuition waiver agreement. Students must meet the requirements below to receive and retain the waiver.

ELIGIBILITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Students must be eligible to work in the United States, including students here on an F-1 visa, and complete all required human resources paperwork before beginning employment. Students must be enrolled in a degree-seeking program, maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 and remain in good academic standing. They must follow Hood College and Graduate School policies, adequately perform assigned duties and complete the required program assessment each semester.



AGREEMENT REQUIRED EACH SEMESTER

Students must register for classes and complete a new tuition waiver agreement each semester. The agreement identifies the approved credits, work hours, hiring department and supervisor. All required paperwork and approvals must be completed before the waiver can be processed. Tuition waivers are generally processed after the add/drop deadline.

AMOUNT AND COVERAGE

The tuition waiver equals the applicable cost per credit multiplied by the number of approved credits. It cannot exceed the credits authorized in the agreement, even if the student enrolls in additional credits. The tuition waiver covers tuition only and does not cover comprehensive fees, supplemental costs, class or lab fees, books or other incidental expenses.

Some graduate assistantship positions also include housing and/or meal benefits. These benefits are separate from the tuition waiver and apply only when specifically included in the student's assistantship appointment. Students are responsible for any charges not covered by their approved assistantship benefits.

MAINTAINING THE WAIVER

Failure to meet the agreement's requirements or early resignation results in revocation of the tuition waiver. Under the agreement, full tuition payment for the semester becomes immediately due, and a future assistantship will not be granted.

COORDINATION WITH OTHER FINANCIAL AID

Assistantship tuition waivers must be included when reviewing the student's financial aid eligibility. Other financial aid may be adjusted to prevent an award overage for the aid year. Students will receive a revised financial aid notification at their Hood email address when an adjustment is made.

ALTERNATIVE FINANCING OPTIONS

TUITION PAYMENT PLAN

Hood College offers payment plan options that allow students to spread a semester balance across monthly installments. Enrollment is completed through Self-Service. Plan availability, enrollment dates and fees are established by Student Accounts.

PRIVATE/ALTERNATIVE STUDENT LOANS

Private education loans may be used to supplement other resources. Students generally may borrow up to the yearly cost of attendance minus other financial assistance. Private lenders establish their own credit, interest rate, repayment and co-signer requirements. Once you apply, the lender will contact Hood College for school certification.

PLANNING FOR YOUR REMAINING BALANCE

After financial aid is applied, graduate students may use a combination of payment plans, savings/current income, employer tuition benefits, private education loans and other eligible resources to cover a remaining balance.

IMPORTANT FOR 2026-27

Federal graduate student loan rules changed effective July 1, 2026. Graduate PLUS loans are no longer available to new borrowers under the new rules, and new borrowing limits apply. Students who previously borrowed federal loans for their current program may qualify to continue borrowing under the previous federal loan rules for a limited period. Your individual loan eligibility will be reflected in your financial aid offer.



GENERAL INFORMATION

YOUR FINANCIAL AID OFFER

Your financial aid offer is based on information available at the time of review, your eligibility for financial aid programs, enrollment and the availability of funds. Hood College may review and adjust financial aid when information affecting eligibility changes. Total financial assistance from all sources cannot exceed your cost of attendance.



ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

Graduate federal loan eligibility requires at least half-time enrollment. For fall and spring, Hood's enrollment status framework is shown below. Summer graduate enrollment uses a separate full-time equivalency.

PROGRAM	FULL-TIME	3/4 TIME	HALF-TIME	BELOW HALF-TIME
Master's	9+ credits	6–8	3–5	< 3
Doctoral	7+ credits	5–6	3–4	< 3

For summer graduate enrollment, taking 3 credits is treated as full-time for financial aid enrollment purposes. Federal loans still require at least half-time enrollment.

VERIFICATION AND REQUESTED DOCUMENTATION

If the Office of Financial Aid requests documentation to resolve FAFSA information or determine eligibility, you are responsible for submitting the requested information. Changes resulting from review may affect your financial aid offer.

STUDENTS' RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

You must notify the Office of Financial Aid of outside assistance and changes that may affect eligibility, including enrollment, anticipated graduation and other attendance-related changes. You are responsible for reading and understanding the forms and agreements you complete. Financial aid records are handled as confidential student information.

FEDERAL STUDENT LOANS

FEDERAL DIRECT UNSUBSIDIZED LOAN

Eligible graduate students may be offered a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan. Interest begins to accrue when the loan is disbursed. First-time borrowers must complete Entrance Counseling and a Master Promissory Note before funds can be released.

2026-27 FEDERAL LOAN CHANGES

Effective July 1, 2026, new annual and aggregate borrowing limits apply to graduate students, and Graduate PLUS loans are no longer available to new borrowers. Students who were enrolled in their current program and received a qualifying federal loan before July 1, 2026, may remain eligible under the previous loan rules for up to three academic years or until program completion, whichever comes first, provided they meet federal requirements.

Your actual loan eligibility depends on your academic program, enrollment status, remaining cost of attendance, other financial assistance and applicable federal loan limits. The amount listed in your financial aid offer reflects your initial eligibility and may be adjusted if your circumstances change.

LOAN ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT

You must be enrolled at least half-time to receive a federal student loan. A change in enrollment can change the amount you are eligible to receive. If you drop below the enrollment level used to determine your loan eligibility, future disbursements may be reduced or canceled as required.

LOAN FEES AND NET DISBURSEMENT

Federal loans may be subject to an origination fee. Your financial aid offer reflects the gross loan amount; the amount credited to your student account may be slightly lower after the federal fee is deducted.



GRADUATE ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS



CHANGES IN CREDIT LOAD

Your financial aid is based on your enrollment status and the courses that count toward your degree program. Adding, dropping or withdrawing from courses may affect your financial aid eligibility and loan disbursements. Contact the Office of Financial Aid before making enrollment changes if you are relying on federal loans or other financial assistance to cover your educational expenses.

WITHDRAWING FROM HOOD

Students who wish to withdraw from Hood College must complete the official withdrawal process through the Office of the Registrar. Students who withdraw, stop attending or are dismissed before completing the payment period (such as a semester) may be subject to a recalculation of their federal financial aid. This may result in a portion of their aid being returned and an outstanding balance owed to the College.

4PLUS PROGRAM

Hood College's 4PLUS program offers eligible undergraduate students an opportunity to get a head start on a master's degree by taking graduate courses while completing their bachelor's degree. By applying eligible coursework toward both degrees, students may save time and reduce the overall cost of their graduate education. Financial aid eligibility may change when students transition from undergraduate to graduate status. Students are encouraged to contact the Office of Financial Aid to review their options.

Learn more at hood.edu/4plus.

4PLUS
BACHELOR'S + MASTER'S



MAINTAINING FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP)

Graduate students receiving financial aid must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) toward their degree. Hood's graduate financial aid SAP standards include a cumulative GPA requirement, a quantitative completion rate requirement and a maximum timeframe.

QUALITATIVE STANDARD - GPA

Graduate students must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.00 for financial-aid SAP purposes.

QUANTITATIVE STANDARD - PACE

Students must successfully complete at least 67% of all attempted credits. Attempted credits include courses that may not result in earned credit, such as withdrawals, incompletes and failing grades, as applicable under the College's SAP policy.

MAXIMUM TIMEFRAME

Graduate financial aid eligibility is limited to 150% of the published length of the student's academic program, measured in years. Students who cannot complete the program within the maximum timeframe may lose eligibility for financial aid.

FINANCIAL AID SUSPENSION

Students who fail to meet one or more SAP standards are placed on financial aid suspension and are not eligible for financial aid unless eligibility is restored through an approved appeal or by meeting the applicable SAP standards.

SAP APPEALS AND PROBATION

APPEALS PROCESS

A student placed on financial aid suspension may submit an appeal by the deadline provided in the suspension notification. The appeal must explain the extenuating circumstances that prevented the student from meeting SAP and what has changed that will allow the student to meet the standards going forward. Supporting documentation is required.

FINANCIAL AID PROBATION

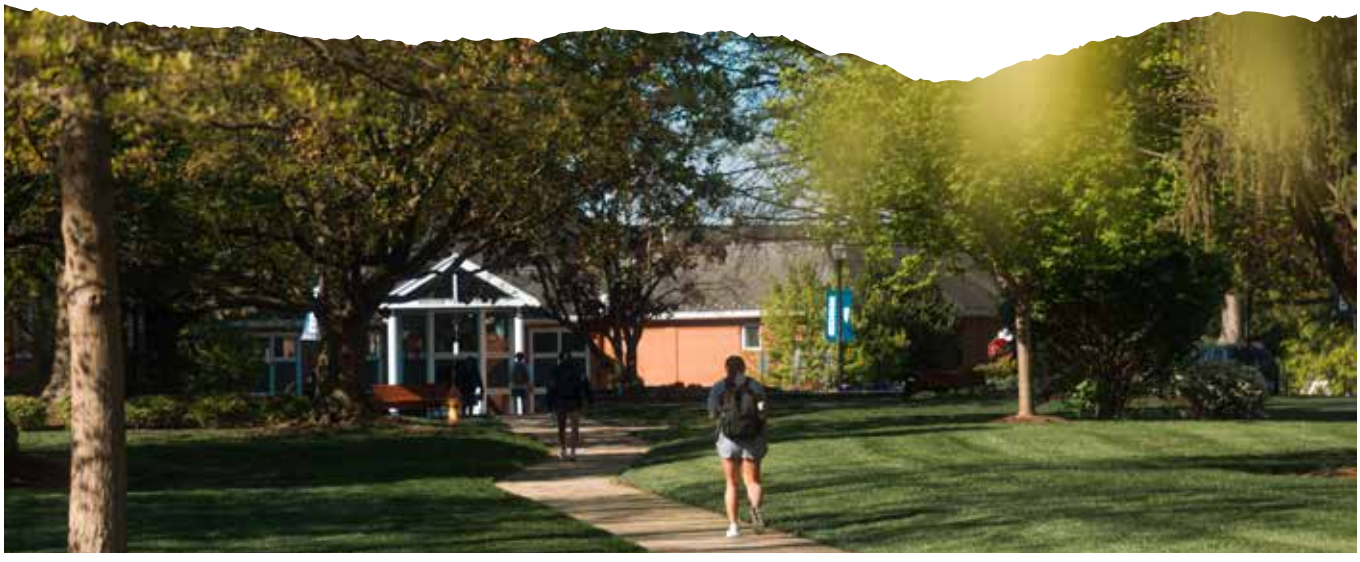
If an appeal is approved, the student may be placed on financial aid probation for one payment period and may continue receiving aid during that period. If the student cannot reasonably meet SAP after one payment period, an approved academic plan may be required.

REGAINING ELIGIBILITY

Students must meet the conditions of any approved academic plan and/or return to the College's SAP standards to continue receiving financial aid. Skipping a semester does not by itself restore financial aid eligibility.

IMPORTANT

Financial aid SAP is separate from the academic standards used by the Graduate School or an individual academic program. A student may be academically permitted to enroll while not meeting the separate requirements for financial aid eligibility.



CONTACT US.

The Office of Financial Aid is here to help with your questions about financial aid. You can visit our office, contact us by phone or email, or schedule a virtual appointment to speak with a member of our staff.

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID

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