THE SOLUTION CENTER

Financial Aid | Registrar | Student Financial Services



Your guide to financial aid

2026-2027

UMASS LOWELL



Welcome to UMass Lowell

Everything you need to know about financial aid at UMass Lowell is at your fingertips!

This guide is filled with information on types of aid, eligibility, smart borrowing and options for financing your education at UMass Lowell.

Get answers instantly to all your financial aid-related questions and much more 24/7 at **uml.financialaidtv.com.**

We look forward to working with you!



The Solution Center is available to assist you with questions related to financial aid, student billing and registration.

The Solution Center

University Crossing
220 Pawtucket St., Suite 131
Lowell, MA 01854-5141
Phone: 978-934-2000
Fax: 978-934-2041
Email: TheSolutionCenter@uml.edu
Web: uml.edu/TheSolutionCenter

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

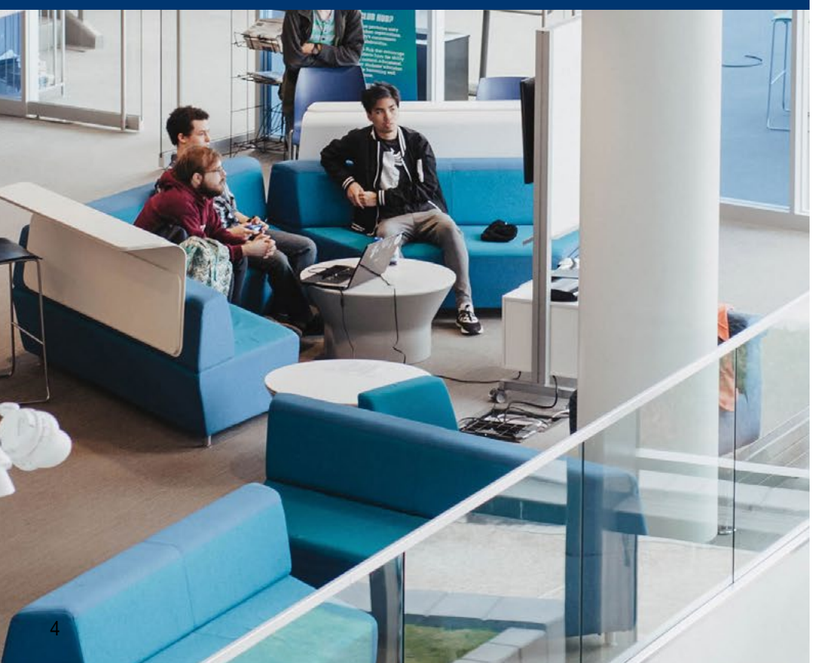
Office of Undergraduate Admissions
978-934-3931

Housing and Residence Life
978-934-5160

Immunization Requirements and Health Services
978-934-6800

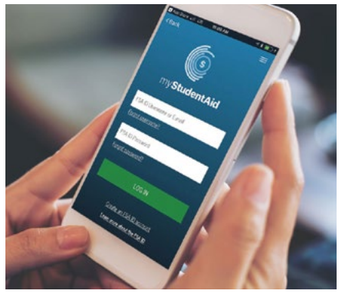


APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID



YOUR FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility for financial aid begins with filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You must file the FAFSA every year online at **fafsa.gov** beginning October 1.



DETERMINING YOUR FINANCIAL NEED

Financial aid is available to help you pay for college. We use the Cost of Attendance (COA) and Student Aid Index (SAI) to determine the amount and types of aid you may get.

Cost of Attendance (COA) is the estimated amount it should cost you to attend UMass Lowell for one academic year. COA is based on residency status, career level and whether the student will be living on-campus, off-campus or commuting. COA includes both direct and indirect costs.

Find your COA online based on your career at **www.uml.edu/costofattendance**.

Student Aid Index figure determines a student's eligibility for student aid. The SAI is calculated by the Department of Education using the financial information on the FAFSA.

Demonstrated Financial Need is calculated by subtracting the SAI from the COA. A negative SAI is treated as zero when calculating demonstrated financial need.

Example:

Cost of Attendance (COA)
— Student Aid Index (SAI)

= Demonstrated Financial Need (Need)



ANNUAL COST OF ATTENDING UML—2025-2026

Direct Costs: These are the charges you will see on your bill. Direct costs may include tuition, fees, on-campus housing and food.

Indirect Costs: These are estimates of other expenses you may have while attending the university. Indirect costs may include books, off-campus housing and transportation.

Full-Time (12 Credits) Undergraduate—Living On-Campus

Direct Costs	In-State	Out-of-State	Regional
Tuition and Mandatory Fees*	$17,664	$37,460	$30,008
Housing—Weighted Average Cost**	$11,072	$11,072	$11,072
Food Plan	$5,850	$5,850	$5,850

Indirect Costs	In-State	Out-of-State	Regional
Books	$1,200	$1,200	$1,200
Loan Fees	$64	$64	$64
Transportation	$500	$500	$500
Miscellaneous/Personal	$900	$900	$900
TOTAL ESTIMATED COA	**$37,250**	**$57,046**	**$49,594**

Graduate (9 Credits)—On Campus

Direct Costs	In-State	Out-of-State	Regional
Tuition and Mandatory Fees*	$17,036	$29,248	$25,280
Housing—Weighted Average Cost**	$11,072	$11,072	$11,072
Food Plan	$5,850	$5,850	$5,850

Indirect Costs	In-State	Out-of-State	Regional
Books	$900	$900	$900
Loan Fees	$148	$148	$148
Transportation	$500	$500	$500
Miscellaneous/Personal	$900	$900	$900
TOTAL ESTIMATED COA	**$36,406**	**$48,618**	**$44,650**

*Tuition and fees are subject to change by a vote of the UMass Board of Trustees.

**Housing cost reflects the Weighted Average Cost. Housing options range from $9,700-$13,150. Visit the Office of Residence Life for more information.

For information about tuition, fees and housing expenses, visit **uml.edu/tuition-fees**.

Visit **uml.edu/costofattendance** for information about indirect costs and off-campus living expenses.

Find information on tuition costs for Graduate, Online and Professional Studies at **gps.uml.edu/tuition**.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Financial aid applicants must meet the following key criteria to receive most types of financial aid:

- Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment into a degree-granting or approved certificate program. Students enrolled in non-degree programs are not eligible for financial aid.
- Be matriculated in at least 6 credits per semester (some grants and scholarships require full-time enrollment).
- Be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident or eligible non-citizen as defined by the federal government.
- Have a valid Social Security number.
- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) toward degree completion.
- Not be in default or owe money on a federal or state student loan.
- Have a high school diploma or a General Education Development (GED) certificate, or have completed a high school education in a home school setting that is treated as a home school or private school under state law.

View additional eligibility requirements at **uml.edu/FAterms.**



UNDERSTANDING YOUR AWARD LETTER AND TYPES OF AID

Your financial aid award may consist of some or all of the following types of aid, depending on your financial need.

Please note: All financial aid awards are contingent on funding.



CATEGORIES OF FINANCIAL AID

Need-Based Aid is awarded when you have demonstrated financial need (i.e., your SAI is less than the COA). Need-based aid includes federal, state and institutional grants, scholarships, student employment and subsidized student loans.

Non-Need-Based Aid does not require you to have demonstrated financial need (i.e., your SAI is greater than the COA). Non-need-based aid includes most merit scholarships and unsubsidized student loans.

Definition of SAI and COA can be found on page 4.



TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

To view full descriptions, eligibility requirements and award amounts of each financial aid program, visit **uml.edu/typesofaid.**

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Grants and scholarships are called “gift aid” because they are funds that do not have to be repaid. Grants and scholarships come from a variety of sources, including the federal government, state government, university and private organizations.

Examples of grants and scholarships include:

- Federal Pell Grant
- Federal Supplemental Opportunity Grant
- MassGrant
- MassGrant Plus
- DHE Cash Grant
- UMass Lowell Need-Based Grant
- UMass Lowell Scholarship
- Merit Scholarship*

*UMass Lowell offers a variety of merit scholarships for which incoming students are automatically considered when they apply to the university. Most awards are renewable annually if the scholarship standards are met. For a complete list of merit scholarships, visit **uml.edu/scholarships**.

OTHER SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Visit UML’s River Hawk Scholarship Portal at **uml.edu/scholarship-search** for information on endowed and departmental scholarships available to students at UMass Lowell.

Beginning in February, you can complete the general application and find out if you qualify for one of the many endowed/departmental scholarship opportunities.

For private scholarship opportunities, visit **@UMLScholarships** on Instagram and Twitter.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Federal Work Study & the UMass Lowell Student Employment Programs provide part-time, on-campus jobs to eligible students with financial need. This allows you to earn money to help pay for your education. The programs encourage community service work and work related to your course of study.

UMass Lowell offers other employment opportunities, such as the Departmental Employment program and The Job Location and Development (JLD) program. Find out more and begin your job search at **uml.edu/jobhawk**.

SUMMER FINANCIAL AID

If you plan to take courses over the summer, you may be eligible to receive financial aid to offset the costs.

A separate application process is required to apply for summer financial aid, and eligibility requirements must be met.

Find more detailed information and summer aid FAQ’s at **uml.edu/summeraid**.

FEDERAL STUDENT LOANS

A loan is money that is borrowed and must be paid back with interest. Repayment of student loans usually begins after you have completed your education or if your enrollment drops below half-time (6 credits).

Student loans made by the federal government usually offer borrowers lower interest rates and have more flexible repayment options than loans from banks or other private sources. Remember, you can borrow less than what is offered to you. You should only borrow what you need! Once offered, you can reduce or decline your federal student loans on your SiS student center.

$211 MILLION
IN FINANCIAL AID AWARDED

FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

Loan Types	Interest Rate	Origination Fees	Terms
Direct Subsidized Loan	**6.39%** fixed interest rate *(Effective July 1, 2025. Rates change each July 1.)*	**1.057%** origination fee	Government pays the interest while you are in school Repayment begins 6 months after you leave school or drop below 6 credits
Direct Unsubsidized Loans	**6.39%** fixed interest rate for undergraduate students (*Effective July 1, 2025. Rates change each July 1.)* **7.94%** fixed interest rate for graduate students (*Effective July 1, 2025. Rates change each July 1.)*	**1.057%** origination fee	Interest accrues while in school, which you may pay Repayment begins 6 months after you leave school or drop below 6 credits

To view full descriptions, eligibility requirements and current interest rates for each loan program, visit **uml.edu/loans**.

ADDITIONAL LOAN REQUIREMENTS

- Before loan funds are disbursed to a student account, all new Direct Loan borrowers must complete on-line Entrance Counseling **(studentaid.gov/entrance-counseling)** and a Master Promissory Note **(studentaid.gov/mpn)**.
- **Exit Counseling** is required for Direct Loan borrowers who are graduating or dropping below half-time enrollment. To complete the Exit Counseling session, go to **studentaid.gov/exit-counseling.**



FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN LIMITS

Loan Borrowing Limits Per Academic Year

Dependent	Max Subsidized	Additional Unsubsidized	Combined Subsidized and Unsubsidized
Freshman	$3,500	$2,000	$5,500
Sophomore	$4,500	$2,000	$6,500
Junior/Senior	$5,500	$2,000	$7,500

Independent	Max Subsidized	Additional Unsubsidized	Combined Subsidized and Unsubsidized
Freshman	$3,500	$6,000	$9,500
Sophomore	$4,500	$6,000	$10,500
Junior/Senior	$5,500	$7,000	$12,500
Graduate	N/A	$20,500	$20,500

Total Lifetime Aggregate Limits

Academic Career	Max Subsidized	Additional Unsubsidized	Combined Subsidized and Unsubsidized
Undergraduate/Dependent	$23,000	$8,000	$31,000
Undergraduate/Independent	$23,000	$34,500	$57,500
Graduate (includes undergraduate amounts)			$100,000

Several flexible repayment options are available. For more information regarding loan repayment or consolidation, review the information at **studentaid.gov/manage-loans/repayment/plans**.

Note: Loans are prorated for students less than full-time status.

SMART BORROWING TIPS

1. Borrow as little as possible to cover what is needed for education-related expenses.
2. Consider your estimated monthly payments. Don’t borrow more than you can reasonably afford to pay each month.
3. Taking out a loan is agreeing to a binding contract. Taking out a loan is an important financial decision that can affect you for years to come. It is critical that you understand your loan options to make good borrowing decisions.

Find more financial wellness tips at **uml.edu/wellbeing**.

ADDITIONAL FINANCING OPTIONS

FEDERAL DIRECT PLUS LOANS

The Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan is available for parents and stepparents of dependent undergraduate students who are enrolled in an eligible program at least half-time (6 credits) per semester.

Federal Direct PLUS Loans Terms:

- The interest rate is a fixed 8.94% and the origination fee is 4.228% (rates subject to change).
- Loan approval is subject to credit criteria established by the U.S. Department of Education.
- If you do not pass the credit check, you may still be able to receive a PLUS Loan with a creditworthy endorser or appeal the credit decision with the U.S. Department of Education.
- All parents (combined) may borrow up to an lifetime aggregate of $65,000 per dependent student, with an annual limit of $20,000 per student.
- If a Parent PLUS Loan is denied, the student may be eligible to borrow an additional Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan.
- Interest begins accruing from the date loan funds are first disbursed until the loan is repaid in full.
- The first payment is due within 60 days of the loan's last disbursement. Deferment options are available by contacting the U.S. Department of Education.

Apply online at **uml.edu/Plus-Loans**.

PRIVATE ALTERNATIVE LOANS

Before considering private loan options, apply for federal, state and institutional financial aid, including federal student loans. Students are strongly encouraged to apply for financial aid each year online at **fafsa.gov.**

UMass Lowell will process private/alternative loans for any lender selected by the student. Please note that each lender has credit requirements that either the borrower must meet or must have a creditworthy co-borrower who meets those criteria.

Please visit **uml.edu/alternative** for more information on private alternative loan options.

MONTHLY TUITION PAYMENT PLAN

Monthly payment plans by semester are offered through Flywire. Semester bills can be divided into five-, four- and three-month payments.

Payment plans enable students and their families to pay the tuition, fees, and housing and food in smaller, more affordable payments rather than in a lump sum. A payment plan is not a loan program, and there are no finance or interest charges.

There is a $35 nonrefundable application fee per semester.

For more information, or to sign up online, visit your SIS student center and click on payment options.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE VERIFICATION PROCESS

What is verification? Verification is the review process used to make sure the information you entered on the FAFSA is accurate. The U.S Department of Education selects a number of students for verification. UMass Lowell may also select students for verification to correct any potential conflicts in information.

If your FAFSA is selected, per federal guidelines, we are required to collect all necessary documentation from you and your parents or spouse (if married). It is your responsibility to provide the required verification documentation as soon as possible.

What documents will I need to provide?

Independent Students

- ✔ Independent Verification Web Form
- ✔ Student IRS Tax Return Transcripts

Dependent Students

- ✔ Dependent Verification Web Form
- ✔ Student and Parent IRS Tax Return Transcripts

How will I know if I am selected?
Notifications will be sent via email with instructions to log in to your Financial Aid Portal to view, complete and upload required documents.

What is Direct Data Exchange? All FAFSA contributors will be required to consent to having their tax data transferred directly from the IRS to the FAFSA. Direct Data Exchange (DDX) establishes a secure connection between the FAFSA and IRS to input tax data directly to the FAFSA; this will reduce the number of financial questions most families will see.

What other documentation may be necessary? You may be required to submit documentation to verify your immigration, citizenship, veteran status, and/or Social Security number as determined by the U.S. Department of Education.

Additional forms that may be requested include:

- Confirmation of assets form
- Child support confirmation form
- Untaxed income form

Where do I complete verification documents?
You will need to complete your verification tasks online in your Financial Aid Portal, where you can securely upload, complete and e-sign all documents from any computer or mobile device. If you are required to complete verification, a link to your FA Portal will be available in your SiS student center To-Do List.

How will verification impact my aid? We provide an estimated financial aid award package when you complete the FAFSA for your family to make informed decisions. The estimated award package may change after the verification process is completed, based on the verified Student Aid Index (SAI).

What else should I know?

- It is important to provide the proper information requested as soon as possible to receive your financial aid.
- You will receive an updated financial aid package if your eligibility changes after the verification process.
- Failure to submit all requested information to complete verification may result in cancellation of your financial aid offer.
- Check your SiS To-Do List and university email account for reminders of missing documents.

For detailed information on verification, visit **uml.edu/verification**.

ADJUSTMENTS TO YOUR FINANCIAL AID

MOST COMMON REASONS FOR ADJUSTMENTS

Additional Aid: Internal or external scholarships, stipends, assistantships or other payments toward educational expenses not listed on your award letter must be reported to The Solution Center.

Federal regulations require the coordination of internal and external awards with other financial aid awards. In situations when financial need has been met with financial aid funds, it is the university's policy to reduce aid in the following sequence: student loans, student employment and, finally, grant aid.

Enrollment: Initial financial aid awards are based as follows: undergraduate = 12 day credits, graduate = 9 day credits, and online & professional studies = 6 online or evening credits. Any change in enrollment may result in an adjustment to your awards (including failure to attend some or all of your courses).

Day school students taking courses offered through Graduate, Online & Professional Studies (GPS) may see a reduction in their grants, scholarships and/or loans. Please email the Solution Center to request an individualized review of your financial aid award.

Residency: Changes in residency (e.g., out of state to in state) may require an adjustment to your financial aid. Visit **uml.edu/residency** for more information.

Housing: For new students, initial awards are based on housing choice reported through admissions. For returning students, initial awards are based on housing status in the previous academic year. Changes in housing status (e.g., dorm to commuter) may require an adjustment to your financial aid.

Grade Level: Changes in grade level due to transfer credits may require an adjustment to your financial aid.

Verification: Changes after the verification process may result in changes to your financial aid package. For detailed information on verification, visit **uml.edu/verification**.

Special and Unusual Circumstances: You or your family may submit an appeal to review your aid eligibility due to a reduction of income from job loss, death, divorce/separation or unusually high expenses paid from medical or dental care, child care, and/or private primary/secondary school tuition. For more information on appeals, visit **uml.edu/circumstances** or email the Solution Center at thesolutioncenter@uml.edu.

PAYING YOUR BILL

HOW TO ACCESS YOUR STUDENT EBILL

- University eBill notifications are emailed directly to the student's university email account.
- Students may access their University eBill online using their SiS Student Center (**uml.edu/sis**).
- Payment options are available in your SiS Student Center under Payment Options.
- Students can grant user access to their student financial information to parent(s)/guardian(s) through UShare online at **uml.edu/ushare**.

For more information, please go to **uml.edu/TheSolutionCenter**.

DISBURSEMENTS TO YOUR BILL

Financial aid disbursements are made directly to your bill (except in the case of student employment). Disbursements are made after the add/drop period of each semester once enrollment, residency, grade level and housing are confirmed and all program requirements have been met (e.g., loan entrance counseling, promissory notes, verification, etc.).

Federal Work Study and UMass Lowell Student Employment is distributed by paycheck for hours worked.

SIS USHARE

SiS is UMass Lowell's online student information system. You have the ability to grant your parents, guardians, spouse, employers or others access to your SiS account via UShare from the Student Center. In compliance with FERPA, only students may initiate and assign guest access. For more information, visit **uml.edu/ushare**.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT EARNINGS

Student Employment earnings are not automatically applied to your university bill; however, you may opt to have 70% of biweekly earnings applied toward your bill by completing a Withholding Enrollment Form with payroll. Find the forms and more information about student earnings at **uml.edu/jobhawk**.

FINANCIAL AID REFUNDS AND BOOK ADVANCEMENTS

Student Refunds: Credit balances resulting from overpayment or excess financial aid will be refunded to students each semester. Students can authorize the university to deposit credit balances directly into a designated bank account by enrolling in Direct Deposit through SiS Self Service. For detailed instructions on Direct Deposit, visit **uml.edu/refunds**.

Book Advancements: Students whose financial aid is in excess of the student invoice by $50-$700 will be issued a book advancement. The amount comes from your financial aid award, and the amount used at the bookstore will be charged back to your student account. Eligible students are notified via their university student email account. Students without a book advance should plan to pay for books on their own. To find out more, visit **uml.edu/bookvoucher**.

MONTHLY TUITION PAYMENT PLAN

Monthly payment plans by semester are offered through Flywire. Semester bills can be divided into five-, four- and three-month payments. The earlier you are able to sign up, the smaller the monthly payments will be.

Payment plans enable students and their families to pay the tuition, fees, and housing and food in smaller, more affordable payments rather than in a lump sum. A payment plan is not a loan program, and there are no finance or interest charges.

There is a $35 nonrefundable application fee per semester.

For more information, or to sign up online, visit your SIS student center and click on payment options.

MAINTAINING FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY

APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID

You must reapply for financial aid each year, beginning Oct. 1, by completing the FAFSA online at **fafsa.gov** with our Federal School Code: 002161. The UMass Lowell priority filing deadline is **March 1.**

MERIT AID REQUIREMENTS

Maintaining Merit Aid: The Financial Aid Office evaluates the cumulative GPA of merit scholarship recipients at the end of each spring semester. You must maintain the minimum cumulative GPA requirements of the scholarship program to have the award renewed. For most merit programs, you must be enrolled full time in day school courses each semester. Please refer to your original award letter for renewal criteria. If you are not meeting program requirements, appeals may be sent to **scholarships@uml.edu.** Visit **uml.edu/scholarships** for more information.

MEETING SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

You must meet satisfactory academic progress (SAP) standards to ensure progress is made toward your degree or certificate program. SAP standards apply to all federal, state and university financial aid programs.

- Undergraduate students must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0, maintain a minimum 70% completion rate and complete their program within the 150% program length.
- Graduate students must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0, maintain a minimum 70% completion rate and complete their program within the 150% program length.
- SAP evaluations are conducted at the end of each spring term for undergraduate and graduate students.
- Certificate students are evaluated at the end of each semester.

Students who do not maintain the university SAP standards become ineligible to receive financial aid, with the option to appeal for reinstatement of aid. For the complete SAP Policy, refer to **uml.edu/SAP**.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Students withdrawing from the university are required to discharge all financial obligations to the university, return all university property and complete the university withdrawal form on the Solution Center Website.

Students should meet with a financial aid advisor prior to withdrawing in order to understand the financial impacts.

Students earn Title IV federal financial aid by attending and participating in classes. The amount of federal aid a student has earned for the enrollment period is based on the percentage of time the student remains enrolled for that period.

The earned percentage is calculated by dividing the numbers of days within the enrollment period by the number of days attended.

The last date of attendance (or withdrawal date) is determined by the date the student officially submits the withdrawal form to the university, or otherwise notifies the university of his/her intent to withdraw.

The calculation of Title IV funds earned by the student has no relationship to the student's incurred institutional charges.

Unofficial Withdrawal
An unofficial withdrawal occurs when a student enrolls in courses and either never attends any courses or stops attending all courses at some point during the semester without providing official notification to the university. Students receiving Title IV federal aid who unofficially withdraw will have their aid recalculated in the same manner as an official withdrawal.

For the complete, official withdrawal policy, please refer to **uml.edu/withdrawal**.

STUDENT RIGHTS

- You have the right to privacy. All documents submitted are kept confidential in accordance with the Federal Education Right to Privacy Act (FERPA).
- You have the right to request a review of your financial aid eligibility.
- You have the right to request a reduction or cancellation of your student loans.
- You have the right to know the criteria for maintaining your financial aid eligibility.

For a complete list of rights as a financial aid recipient, visit **uml.edu/FATerms**.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- It is your responsibility to obtain information regarding deadlines and the financial aid application process.
- You are required to inform The Solution Center of outside sources of aid that do not appear on your award letter. Examples may include scholarships, grants, and veteran's or rehabilitation benefits.
- You are responsible for supplying complete and accurate information upon which to base your eligibility for aid and completing all requests for information within the given deadlines.
- You are responsible for using the aid offered for education-related expenses.
- You must contact The Solution Center if you plan to participate in a Consortium, Study Abroad, National Exchange Program or Professional Cooperative Education Program.
- You must inform The Solution Center and your lender of any changes to your information, such as name, address or phone number.
- Grant and scholarship aid that, combined, exceeds the cost for tuition, fees, books, and required equipment and supplies may be considered taxable income. You are responsible for your own recordkeeping, so that you can complete your tax forms properly.

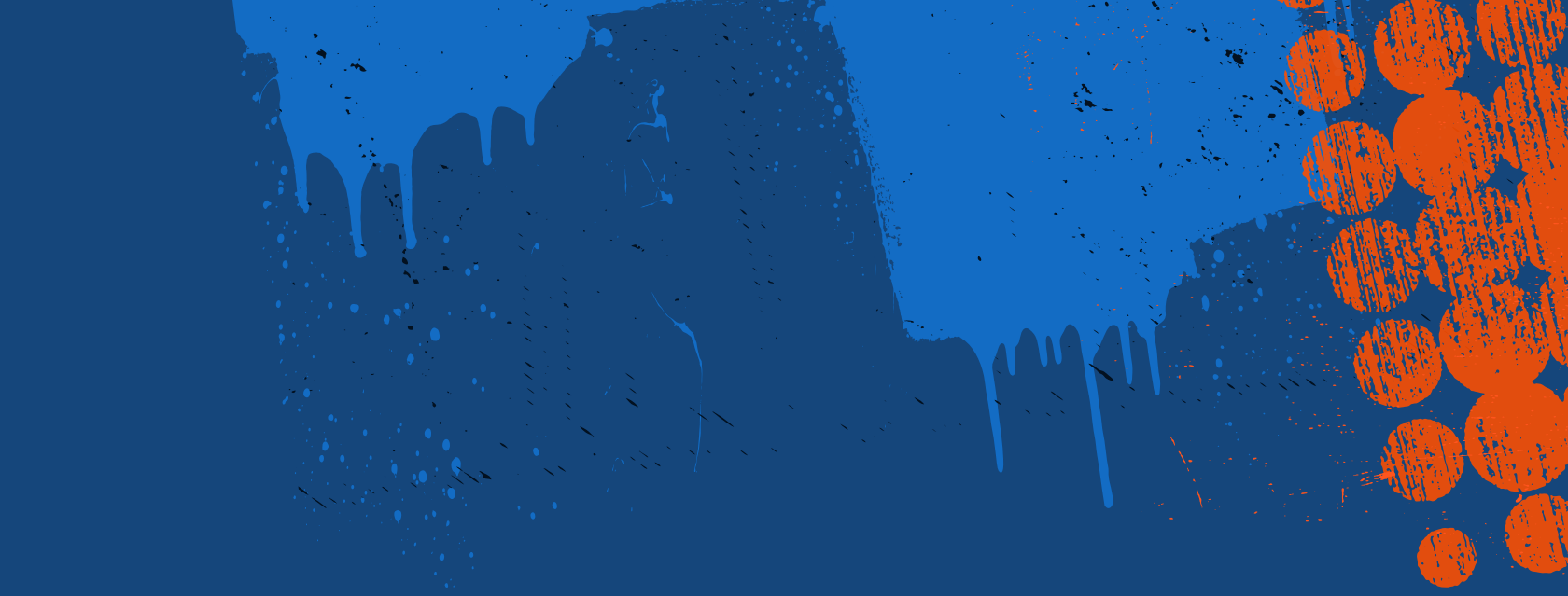
  For additional information, please refer to IRS Publication 970: Tax Benefits for Education, available on the IRS website, or discuss your situation with a personal income tax professional.

For a complete list of your responsibilities as a financial aid recipient, visit **uml.edu/FATerms**.

DISCLAIMER

The programs, policies and procedures in this publication are correct at the time of printing and are subject to change without notice. For updated information, please refer to our web page at uml.edu/TheSolutionCenter. This publication contains material related to Federal Title IV student aid programs. This publication has not been reviewed or approved by the U.S. Department of Education.





UMASS LOWELL