Financial Aid Funds and Your Bursar's Office Account Statement

NIU notifies students of their bills through MyNIU and monthly Account Statements that are mailed. Initial Account Statements for a semester are issued approximately one month prior to the start of the semester. After the initial billing, Account Statements will be issued 30 days prior to the payment due date. A schedule of the billing and payment due dates for the 2015-2016 academic year can be found at www.niu.edu/bursar/payments/duedates.shtml

Financial aid funds, with the exception of Federal Work-Study, are applied directly to the student’s Bursar’s Office account. Each semester, NIU will bill you for tuition and fees, room and board (if applicable), bookstore charges (if applicable), and student health insurance (if coverage is not waived).

Financial aid funds begin to disburse to your Bursar’s account following the second week of classes each semester. Prior to that time, your financial aid is posted as “Pending Financial Aid,” which acts as a deferment or credit towards the outstanding charges. To determine the amount you owe, factoring in your financial aid funds, visit MyNIU (myniu.niu.edu). Students may access their account balance information online at MyNIU at any time.

Huskie Installment Plan (HIP) is a payment option designed to provide budgetary assistance in meeting NIU students’ semester educational expenses. Through the HIP, for a $50 non-refundable fee each semester, students can spread their NIU semester expenses over four monthly payments. See www.niu.edu/bursar/payments/hip.shtml. Students not on the HIP may pay in full by the first due date or make payments throughout the semester with a monthly service charge of 1.08% on the declining balance.

Refunds are issued to eligible students (and parents in the case of Parent PLUS Loans) beginning the third week of each semester. To receive a refund, you must have financial aid in excess of your charges. We recommend that students and parents consider signing up to have their refund directly deposited into their personal bank account (at www.niu.edu/bursar) and click on “Refunds”). Refund checks will be sent through the mail to students and parents who have not signed up for direct deposit.

Past Due Balances are subject to a monthly service charge of 1.08% and service holds that can prevent future registration.

The page shown above is a detailed breakdown of current charges, payments received, financial aid payments posted, pending financial aid and refunds. To determine if you owe a balance or will receive a refund, add the “Total Payments,” “Total Financial Aid” and “Total Pending Financial Aid,” then subtract this amount from the “Total Charges.” If this number is a positive value, that amount is owed to the University. Once all financial aid is posted to your account any refund will be listed in the “Refund” section. Note: it is possible for you to receive a refund and still have a balance to the University based on the timing of when a charge is added and if financial aid can be used to pay for a certain charge. For additional information please refer to the Title IV Authorization.

Contact Us

Mailing address:
Student Financial Aid Office
Northern Illinois University
Swen Parson Hall 245
DeKalb, Illinois 60115-2828

Phone: 815-753-1395
Toll Free: 800-892-3050
E-mail: finaid@niu.edu

To help us best serve you, please include the following information in all e-mail/communications:

• Student Name
• Student I-D number
• Last 4 digits of student’s Social Security number

Business Hours
Monday–Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Award Notification Checklist

1] Review the awards offered on your award notification. To review eligibility requirements for the awards offered to you, visit www.niu.edu/fa and click on “Types of Aid.” You should also review “Rights and Responsibilities” located under “Policies.”

2] Respond to your award notification on MyNIU as illustrated at the right. Students must access MyNIU (myniu.niu.edu) to accept, reduce, or decline Federal Direct Loans and Federal Work-Study. All gift aid (i.e., grants and scholarships) is already accepted on your award notification.

• For assistance navigating MyNIU, please visit www.niu.edu/fa > Forms & Library > MyNIU Tutorials
• Remember, you can only receive financial aid up to your Cost of Attendance figure as indicated on your award notification.

3] Check your NIU student e-mail. Any subsequent award notification will be sent via your NIU student e-mail account and posted to MyNIU.

Special Note to Students Enrolled Less Than Full-Time: Financial aid you have been offered is based on full-time enrollment. If you are not enrolled full-time by the end of the add/drop period, your aid will be adjusted at that time and you will receive a revised award notification reflecting your level of enrollment.

Note: If eligible for the Illinois MAP grant, this award is based on 15 credit hours per semester and will prorate (reduce) to your enrolled hours per program regulations.
Cost of Attendance Budgets 2015-2016
Fall and Spring Semesters (August-May)

Cost: The financial aid cost of attendance budget is intended as a guide to help you project and plan for your educational expenses including expenses not charged by NIU. It also establishes the maximum financial aid, including loans, which a student may receive in an academic year. The actual financial aid you will receive is a combination of the individual state, federal and institutional grants, waivers, scholarships, loans and federal work-study for which you qualify. Funding for financial aid programs is limited and the total financial aid package for most students is less than the cost of attendance and may be less than the calculated financial aid need.

Per federal regulations and guidance, the costs recognized in a financial aid budget include both direct (NIU charges) and indirect expenses and represent average expenses for broad categories of students. Financial aid, and therefore the cost of attendance, is limited to those expenses incurred due to being a student, and are considered average and modest, yet reasonable and adequate. They do not reflect individual lifestyle choices and cannot include living expenses of other family members.

Financial Aid Responsibility
Students who receive federal financial aid have a responsibility to attend class and to meet satisfactory academic progress. If you do not begin attendance in your registered courses or if you cease attendance prior to the end of the course, your federal financial aid may be reduced or canceled. Academic attendance includes physically attending a class meeting, submitting an academic assignment, taking an exam, or participating in an online discussion that is part of a course delivery. You must meet satisfactory academic progress to continue to receive financial aid for future terms. For more information on satisfactory academic progress go to www.niu.edu/fa/policies/sap.shtml

Title IV Authorization and Financial Planning Tools
• Title IV Authorization - students choosing to give consent to have their Title IV aid be applied to eligible miscellaneous educational-related charges should do so at MyNIU Student Center and select View Student Permissions.
• Estimate your tuition and fees with the Tuition Estimator: www.niu.edu/bursar/tuition/estimator.shtml
• Find information about additional financial resources, such as Parent PLUS loans and private loans: www.niu.edu/fa/types/loans.shtml
• Estimate the size of your monthly loan repayments: www.finaid.org/calculators/loanpayments.phtml

New Undergraduate
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuition</th>
<th>Fees</th>
<th>Room &amp; Board</th>
<th>Books</th>
<th>Student Health Insurance</th>
<th>Travel</th>
<th>Personal Expenses</th>
<th>Total Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-State</td>
<td>$ 9,466</td>
<td>$ 2,878</td>
<td>$ 10,756</td>
<td>$ 1,300</td>
<td>$ 2,104</td>
<td>$ 1,700</td>
<td>$ 29,066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwest Out-of-State</td>
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<td>$ 2,878</td>
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<td>$ 32,852</td>
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<td>$ 1,300</td>
<td>$ 2,104</td>
<td>$ 1,700</td>
<td>$ 38,532</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Costs are based on an estimate of average expenses and are designed for budgeting purposes only.

Midwest Out-of-State Rate is for residents of Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, or Wisconsin

Tuition and Fees are based on the average course load for categories of students based on residency and full-time enrollment. Effective Summer 2004, Illinois residents who enroll at Illinois 4-year institutions as first-time degree seeking undergraduates are guaranteed the same tuition rate for four consecutive years (Illinois Truth-in-Tuition Bill). NIU extends this guarantee beyond the statutory minimum. For more information or to utilize the online Tuition Estimator visit www.niu.edu/bursar

Student Health Insurance may be waived by the NIU Student Health Insurance Office during a limited period at the start of each semester. For more information visit www.niu.edu/ishi

Room and Board represents the cost of a multiple room in Grant or Stevenson and includes a meal plan. If you choose off-campus housing, the room and board amount of the estimated student budget will remain the same as specified above. Commuting students who live at home will have a lower room and board component ($2,000 less) in their estimated budget.

Books and Supplies costs are an estimate of yearly costs. These can vary widely by program, the number of classes in which you are enrolled, the classes you select, and textbooks required for your classes.

Travel/Personal Expenses represent miscellaneous student expenses such as car/transportation expenses, clothing and personal items, recreational and other expenses.

Financial Aid Information

Loans
Federal Direct Lending Program: Direct Loans are low-interest loans for students and parents to help pay for the cost of a student’s education after high school.

Federal Direct Loans, Subsidized vs. Unsubsidized: The subsidized loan is based on financial need, while students qualify for the unsubsidized loan regardless of financial need. Students borrowing subsidized loans do not accrue interest on the loans while they are enrolled at least half-time. Students borrowing unsubsidized loans will accrue the interest while they are enrolled in school. Students may choose to defer the interest payments on an unsubsidized loan until they begin repaying their loans.

First-Time Loan Borrower Requirements:
• Direct Loan Master Promissory Notes and Loan Entrance Counseling: Loan funds will not disburse to NIU until student and parent borrowers have completed the required online Master Promissory Note (MPN). If the student or parent has previously borrowed from Direct Lending, the MPN may not be required. First-time Direct Loan borrowers must also complete online Loan Entrance Counseling.
• Direct Loans and Graduate PLUS Loans Master Promissory Note: www.studentloans.gov Loan Entrance Counseling: www.studentloans.gov
• Parent PLUS Loans Master Promissory Note: www.studentloans.gov Loan Entrance Counseling: www.studentloans.gov

Student Employment
Federal Work-Study Employment
Work-Study awards are not guaranteed and are earned as wages by working on and off campus with eligible employers. A work-study amount on an award notification reflects the amount the student can earn if hired. The Student Employment Office maintains a listing of eligible Work-Study jobs and posts them at www.hr.niu.edu/ServiceAreas/StudentEmployment/JobSearch.cfm. Students must apply for a Work-Study job and be hired in order to utilize the eligibility offered on their award notification. Work-Study wages do NOT credit to the student’s Bursar’s Office account. Students earn paychecks for work performed. For more information about the Federal Work-Study program, please visit www.niu.edu/fa/types/workstudi.shtml

Regular Student Employment
Jobs on campus that do not require work-study eligibility are also posted at www.hr.niu.edu/ServiceAreas/StudentEmployment/JobSearch.cfm

Scholarships
Private Scholarship Checks: All scholarship checks should be sent to the Student Financial Aid Office, Swen Parson 245, DeKalb, IL 60115 and will be directly applied to your Bursar’s account—one-half in the fall semester and one-half in the spring semester, unless otherwise specified by the scholarship donor.

Books and Supplies
Book Charge System: Financial aid recipients may charge a limited amount of books and supplies to their Bursar’s account at either campus bookstore for a limited time at the start of each semester. Financial aid must be offered to utilize this service. It is important to note that the amount you charge will be added to your Bursar’s account. You will be responsible for covering these charges either with financial aid or by paying out of pocket if your financial aid has been exhausted.