2026-27 Financial Aid Rights and Responsibilities

1. You have the right to know the criteria used to determine your financial need and the aid you have been awarded. You also have the right to decline any or all of the awarded aid.

2. **YOU MUST REAPPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID EVERY YEAR.** Aurora University highly recommends completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at fafsa.gov as soon as possible beginning **October 1, 2025**. Students turning in financial aid paperwork and completing their 2026-2027 financial aid file after **May 1, 2026** may incur late fees and/or penalties.

3. If you have been selected for verification, you must submit requested items to the Office of Financial Aid. Verification must be completed before any financial aid, including loans, can be credited to your account. **Please Note:** The verification process may take longer if FAFSA corrections are required. Corrections to FAFSA information may result in changes to your financial aid eligibility, which you will be notified of via a revised offer letter.

4. **SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCE AND DEPENDENCY OVERRIDE REQUESTS:** There are times when you may encounter a situation that is not reflected in the information requested on your FAFSA. If you have extenuating circumstances, you may complete a Special Circumstance or Dependency Override Request. The Office of Financial Aid reviews completed requests weekly. These forms are available in the Office of Financial Aid or at aurora.edu/forms2026.

5. You **MUST** maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) in order to receive federal, state, and institutional financial aid. For additional information, refer to the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy at aurora.edu/satisfactoryacademicprogress.

6. **DEFINITIONS OF ENROLLMENT PER SEMESTER:**

	Undergraduate	Graduate/Doctoral
Full-time =	12 or more credits	6 or more credits
Three-quarter-time =	9-11 credits	5 credits
Half-time =	6-8 credits	3-4 credits
Less than half-time =	5 or fewer credits	2 or fewer credits

7. **DEFINITIONS OF ACADEMIC LEVEL:** Your academic level is a factor in determining your Federal Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized Student Loan eligibility.

Academic Level	Credit Hours
Freshman	0-29 hours
Sophomore	30-59 hours
Junior	60-89 hours
Senior	90+ hours

8. Each student has a cost of attendance that is based on direct and indirect costs. **Direct costs** are those costs billed by the university. Your actual tuition and fee charges and housing and food charges (if living on campus) will reflect on your billing statement (e-Bill). **Indirect costs** are common school expenses that a student may incur while attending college. These are NOT billable costs, but these costs are taken into account when determining your eligibility for financial aid. Indirect costs are based on the costs experienced by the average student and can vary based on individual spending decisions. Specific direct charges can be found at aurora.edu/tuition, and cost of attendance by student academic level and program can be found at aurora.edu/costofattendance.

9. No federal, state, or institutional aid will be awarded to a student who owes a refund or repayment on a Federal Pell Grant or Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) or who is in **DEFAULT** on a Federal Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized Student Loan, a Federal Direct PLUS Loan, or a Federal Perkins Loan.

10. All financial aid received in excess of your need and/or cost of attendance MUST BE RETURNED/REPAID. The total of any financial aid programs designated as applicable toward tuition only cannot exceed the direct cost of tuition.

11. If a student or other individual misreports information or alters documents to fraudulently obtain federal funds, it will result in the cancellation of aid and referral to the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Inspector General.

12. The Student Accounts Office will apply federal and state financial aid to allowable charges such as tuition, fees, housing, and meal plan as well as authorized miscellaneous charges per the Financial Responsibility Agreement form. Excess funds, if applicable, will be refunded to the student and/or parent within 14 calendar days from when the credit balance becomes available. **If you receive a refund of credit and then have a reduction in financial aid, add additional classes, incur additional charges, or withdraw from all courses, you are responsible for paying the outstanding balance**. If you prefer to have any credit balance held on your student account during the academic year, you can arrange this with the Student Accounts Office.

13. Your enrollment in a program of study abroad approved for credit by AU may be considered enrollment at AU for the purpose of applying for assistance under the FSA programs. You must complete the Study Abroad Consortium Agreement Application and Contract.

14. You are responsible for reporting any of the following to the Office of Financial Aid:

15. You will receive a more accurate offer letter for an academic year if you register up front for all of your classes. It is especially important to register for all modules in a semester before that semester begins.

Change in enrollment	Receipt of tuition benefits/ reimbursement from outside source
Change in living arrangements	Receipt of an external scholarship
Change in academic level	

16. Students interested in receiving financial aid for the Summer 2027 semester must have completed the 2026-2027 FAFSA and be admitted as a degree-seeking student during the 2026-2027 academic year. If eligible for summer aid, you will be notified via AU email when there is an update regarding your summer financial aid eligibility. All needed documents and your summer offer letter will be available on Self-Service. A paper offer letter is only mailed to new AU students approaching their first semester who need to submit financial aid items. You will also be notified of alternative options if you are not eligible for aid during the summer semester.

17. If borrowing a Federal Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized Student Loan for the first time, you must complete an **Entrance Counseling** session. You must complete an **Exit Counseling** session if your enrollment falls below half-time, at the time of graduation, or upon leaving the university. At that time, you may contact the U.S. Department of Education to inquire about repayment and/or deferment of your federal loans. It is important to recognize your obligation to repay loans.

18. Your loan disbursement dates have been predetermined by the university. Students enrolled in a semester or a modular program will have one scheduled loan disbursement each semester of attendance. Summer semester loan disbursements are based on summer course dates. Your loan disclosure statement from the U.S. Department of Education will indicate your anticipated disbursement dates and amounts. You will be notified by the Student Accounts Office via your AU email account upon arrival of your loan disbursement(s). You can manage your federal loans at studentaid.gov.

19. **TUITION REFUND POLICY:**
Refer to the Payment of Charges/Fees/Promise to Pay section of the Financial Responsibility Agreement form on the Student Accounts webpage for additional information. **Withdrawing from courses may reduce or eliminate financial aid based on your final enrollment.**

20. Housing and meal plan charges are subject to a different refund policy, which is determined by the Office of Residence Life.

21. Your eligibility for financial aid may be affected if you withdraw from any or all of your classes. Check with the Office of Financial Aid before withdrawing from any classes. If you make the decision to withdraw from Aurora University at any time, please initiate your official withdrawal using the "Withdraw from Aurora University" or "Request an Academic Leave of Absence" links on your Self-Service account.

22. **Return of Federal Funds Policy:** Students who receive Title IV funds and withdraw from classes up through the 60% point in a period of enrollment may no longer be eligible for the full amount of federal aid. Title IV (federal aid) includes: Federal Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loans, Federal Direct PLUS Loans, Pell Grant, and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG). Additionally, students may be eligible for a post-withdrawal disbursement if, prior to withdrawing, the student earned more federal financial aid than was disbursed.

    Further details regarding the federal returns calculations are available in the Withdrawals and Return of Federal Title IV Funds policy at aurora.edu/returnfunds and the Office of Financial Aid.

This information is accurate at all Aurora University locations and subject to change without prior notice.