



Financial Aid Parent Newsletter

Fall 2015 



Parent Newsletter: A Welcome

By Mary Ellen Nugent, Senior Associate Director of Financial Aid

Welcome to the start of the 2015-2016 academic year. We are excited for students to return to campus for the start of classes this fall and are eager to welcome the class of 2019 to campus! After many months of helping make Rochester affordable for incoming freshmen and returning students, we are ready to help you with any additional concerns that may arise during the fall semester.

Our office is open daily from Monday-Friday, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm, with the exception of Wednesdays, when we open at 10 am. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions about financial aid.

Throughout the fall semester, please also feel free to contact the following offices regarding specific questions on billing, housing, or meal plans:

- [The Bursar's Office](#) – (585) 275-3931
- [Residential Life](#) – (585) 275-3166
- [Dining Services](#) – (585) 275-6265

This edition of the Financial Aid Office's Parent Newsletter provides insights on the sibling enrollment verification process, updates on our financial literacy program, some fun facts about our staff members, information on another office on campus, and answers to some of our most frequently asked questions. We hope it is useful to you.

We congratulate and welcome our freshmen, transfer students, and their families to the University of Rochester, and are happy to welcome back all of our returning undergraduates!

Meliora!



Spotlight On: The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning

By Christina Schmidt, Financial Aid Counselor

The Financial Aid Office works with many different offices on campus over the course of the year. The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) provides students and professors with the academic tools to succeed at University of Rochester. Jenny Hadingham is from South Africa and has been with CETL for four years. As an Assistant Director, she provides faculty development, advising for undergraduates, and support for graduate teaching assistants. I sat down with her to learn more about the services the Center provides to students.

CS: What services does the Center offer to undergraduate students?

JH: CETL liaisons with faculty to make accommodations for students who have disabilities. We make sure students have everything from a quiet time and place to complete a test, to the right facilities for those who have cochlear implants or use a wheelchair. Access coordinators work with parents and peer counselors who also have disabilities work with students to help ease the family's transition into university life.

All students have the opportunity to work with study skills counselors on time management, note taking, and test taking techniques. There is also a tutoring program and a six-week, two-credit Methods of Inquiry course where students can bring in materials from other classes and learn to apply studies skills directly to their own course work.

Finally, our Workshop Program is made up of peer-led learning teams whose goal is not to re-teach material, but to facilitate learning in small groups versus a large lecture hall. About a quarter of the student body takes advantage of this 20 year strong Workshop Program each semester.

CS: How does the CETL office interact with the Financial Aid Office?

JH: As part of the advising process, a student may have to add or drop a class. A student may also be working to maintain satisfactory academic progress. We will advise students to contact the Financial Aid Office to inquire about the financial implications for these changes in academic status.

CS: What is the most important thing you want parents to know about CETL?

JH: Some students think there is a stigma to asking for academic help. There is nothing wrong with asking for help. There is a wide range of learning support and resources. That being said, the student has to take the first step. It can be difficult, but it is worth it for the benefits.

Rochester is a very competitive environment. Some now consider a "B" grade the new "F". Students should work to achieve broader levels of understanding and be sure to study not just for the grade, but to learn.

Students can visit the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning 40 hours a week at 1-154 Dewey Hall or visit rochester.edu/college/cetl/index.html to learn more.

Meet Our Staff

By Patrick Hennessey and Carrie Welch, Financial Aid Counselors

Below we have included our names, titles, contact information, and fun facts about ourselves. We hope you enjoy this opportunity to get to know our staff members a little bit better!

Amanda B. Carter

Deputy Director

Email: amanda.b.carter@rochester.edu

Fun Fact: Amanda majored in art history at the University of Rochester and loves to write fiction stories in her spare time.

Carrie Welch

Financial Aid Counselor

Email: carrie.welch@rochester.edu

Fun Fact: For one week every summer, Carrie travels out west to work at some of the toughest off-road races in the world.

Christina Schmidt

Financial Aid Counselor

Email: christina.schmidt@rochester.edu

Fun Fact: Christina is a volunteer choreographer and dancer with local dance troupe, Heart of Dance. It is a community of dancers of all ages, abilities, and disabilities, which Christina has been a part of for 7 years.

Emily Hessney

Assistant Director

Email: emily.hessney@rochester.edu

Fun Fact: Emily is an avid reader. She read 70 books last year!

Hali Skaggs

Senior Assistant Director

Email: hali.skaggs@rochester.edu

Fun Fact: Hali has been working in financial aid since she was an undergraduate student at Blackburn College, where she was both a Financial Aid Assistant and an Admissions Counselor.

Joyce Thomas

Office Manager

Fun Fact: Joyce is huge Jay-Z fan and has seen him in concert.

Long Vu

Senior Assistant Director

Email: long.vu@rochester.edu

Fun Fact: Long is a graduate of UR's Simon School of Business, Class of 2015.

Mary Ellen Nugent

Senior Associate Director

Email: menugent@ur.rochester.edu

Fun Fact: Mary Ellen loves to be by the water.

Meghan Coyne

Senior Financial Aid Counselor

Email: meghan.coyne@rochester.edu

Fun Fact: Meghan loves travel and has visited 12 different countries.

Patrick Hennessey

Financial Aid Counselor

Email: patrick.hennessey@rochester.edu

Fun Fact: Patrick has written two feature-length screenplays.

Patti LaRosa

Guest Relations Coordinator

Fun Fact: Patti owns two Cavalier King Charles spaniels.

Shalena Clary

Associate Director

Email: sduprey@ur.rochester.edu

Fun Fact: Shalena previously taught 7th grade Social Studies.

Shawn Denman

Assistant Director

Email: shawn.denman@rochester.edu

Fun Fact: Shawn has an 8 handicap on the golf course.

Taylor Kreutter

Financial Aid Counselor

Email: taylor.kreutter@rochester.edu

Fun Fact: Taylor is the owner of two rescue dogs, Bella and Dozier.

Tom Cabic

Student Employment

Fun Fact: Tom previously worked for Wegmans Food Markets for 27 years.



Meet a Student Worker: Kaleigh Koegel

By Patrick Hennessey, Financial Aid Counselor

The Financial Aid Office at the University of Rochester administers the student employment program. We help students find jobs at the University that provide them with skills that they can use long after they've earned their degree. The students aren't the only ones who benefit from the student employment program. Our staff and faculty are able to work with some truly amazing individuals over the course of the year. Here's an example of one of them.



PH: Tell me about yourself.

KK: I am a rising senior at the U of R and have been working in the Financial Aid Office for two years now. I'm a native of Chittenango, New York, and am working towards a degree in Cell and Developmental Biology, with a minor in Social Psychology and a cluster in Bioethics. Outside of the Financial Aid Office, I am the business manager of the Charles Drew Pre-Health Society, a campus group for students interested in medical professions. I'm also a volunteer at a local hospice organization as well as a volunteer EMT on ambulances in Penfield, NY. I love spending time with my pet hedgehog and rescue dog (a Corgi-Terrier mix), and cooking is my favorite way to de-stress when I need a study break!

PH: Why the University of Rochester?

KK: From the very first time I visited, I fell in love with this campus. U of R has a beautiful campus and the city of Rochester is great. I was excited to get into a school with such great academics and wonderful, intelligent faculty and staff. I also loved that the hospital was close and that students were able to volunteer and work with faculty there.

PH: What are your proudest achievements as a Yellowjacket?

KK: My proudest achievements so far have been becoming the business manager for Charles Drew Pre-Health Society, making the Dean's List, and working part-time in the FAO. I am proud of myself for finding a balance between work, school, and extracurricular activities.

PH: What class or professor has been most rewarding and interesting to you?

KK: The most rewarding and interesting class I've taken was Cellular Biology with Professor Goldfarb. I thought coming into college that I enjoyed Cellular Biology, but obviously didn't have much experience. Taking this course confirmed to me that I chose the correct major. The professor was amazing and I learned so much in the class.

PH: What does Meliora mean to you?

KK: For me, Meliora symbolizes the school as a whole. The University is always pushing me to try harder and persevere through the tough stuff. The classes and faculty are always driving me to increase my knowledge and desire to learn.

Financial Literacy

By Emily Hessney, Assistant Director

This summer we've been planning more financial literacy events and developing more resources to make available to students. Let's recap resources currently available to UR students:

On-campus events – We love hosting on-campus events. During National Money Smart Week, we collaborated with Sigma Delta Tau, a sorority here at UR, to host Save Your Dollars, an interactive presentation on budgeting and money management. Plus, we served Insomnia Cookies at the event—a worthy enough reason for students to attend!

Financial Avenue – Financial Avenue is a wonderful resource available to UR students. It offers quizzes, videos, and mini modules to help students learn about everything from opening their first credit card to building a budget. Students will need access code 967FBF to log in.

Website – Our website has a page specifically dedicated to financial literacy that compiles all these resources in one handy location. Check it out!

Twitter – Follow us on Twitter @URFinAid so you receive all our tips for #ThriftyThursday

Blog – Check out our blog, full of tons of timely and relevant posts each month on all things financial literacy.

Financial Literacy Corner – When students and parents stop in to our front office, we have prominently displayed financial literacy information in our Financial Literacy Corner. There are budgeting worksheets, information about Financial Avenue, and more. Feel free to take a peek while visiting our office in Wallis Hall.

We are excited for students to return to campus in the fall so we can continue to educate undergraduates about saving, spending, and more! If your student is interested in learning more, have them [contact](#) our office.

Do It Yourself: Sibling Enrollment Verification

By Carrie Welch, Financial Aid Counselor

If you reported on your student's financial aid application that more than one dependent student in your household will be enrolled as an undergraduate for the 2015-2016 academic year and your student is receiving need-based financial aid, you will be required to complete a Sibling Enrollment Verification Form. This form is due by October 2. If the form is not returned by October 2, your student's aid will be updated to reflect that there is only one child in college for the 2015-2016 academic year.

Please contact your student's financial aid counselor if the sibling will not be enrolled for the fall 2015 semester, but will be enrolled for the spring 2016 semester.

1. Print out the form and have the University of Rochester student complete Section A.

SECTION A:	
UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER STUDENT INFORMATION	
Student Name _____	UR Student ID _____

2. Have the sibling complete Section B.
This must be signed by the sibling; it gives their institution permission to release their enrollment status to us.

SECTION B:	
SIBLING INFORMATION	
Sibling's Name _____	Sibling's birth date _____
Choose one: sibling will () ATTEND () NOT ATTEND college during the 2015-2016 academic year.	
College/University sibling will attend in 2015-2016 _____	
I authorize the above named college/university financial aid office to release the following information to the University of Rochester.	
Sibling's Signature _____	Date _____

3. Submit it to the sibling's institution and have their Financial Aid Office complete Section C. Ask that they submit it to our office by fax or mail once it is complete.

SECTION C:		
SIBLING'S ENROLLMENT VERIFICATION – to be completed by the Financial Aid Office at the sibling's college/university. Please return completed form to the University of Rochester's Financial Aid Office by OCTOBER 2, 2015 .		
Program: () DEGREE () CERTIFICATE () NON-DEGREE		
School Type: () PUBLIC () PRIVATE		
Degree Level: () UNDERGRADUATE () GRADUATE		
Enrollment Status: () FULL-TIME () HALF-TIME () LESS THAN HALF-TIME		
Name of College/University Official (Please print) _____	Title _____	Date _____
Signature of College/University Official _____	Email _____	Phone Number _____

FAQs

By Tayler Kreutter, Financial Aid Counselor

We've chosen a couple of frequently asked questions that we receive during the fall semester. If you have additional questions beyond what's listed here, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Q: I applied for a Parent PLUS loan for the fall semester, and it was split in half over the academic year. Why did this happen? How can I change this?

A: By default, Parent PLUS Loans are divided equally among both semesters. The parent that applied for the loan must email their student's financial aid counselor and inform them how they would like the money to be assigned.

Q: We received an email saying that our Parent PLUS loan was approved and processed, but I do not see it on my online billing statement.

A: The UR e-Pay system does not auto-update, so it may not reflect the Parent PLUS loan if it was added recently. The student should log in to FAOnline and check to see if the Parent PLUS loan is listed.

Q: How do I get my refund check?

A: Refund checks may be requested through the Bursar's Office after all aid has disbursed. They can be contacted at (585) 275-3931.

Q: I'm trying to sign my Master Promissory Note, and I keep getting a message stating that my school requires an award. How do I fix this?

A: If an MPN for a Direct or PLUS loan (they are two separate documents) has been signed in the past, then it does not need to be signed again.

Up Next

By Shawn Denman, Assistant Director

Financial Aid Disbursement

All required documents must be received by the Financial Aid Office in order for a student's financial aid to disburse on time for the fall semester. Students receive monthly emails notifying them of any outstanding documents that are preventing their financial aid from disbursing on time. These emails begin in May 2015 and will continue over the summer months until their application is complete. Missing documents can be submitted directly to the Financial Aid Office via email, fax, regular mail, or in person.



The Financial Aid Office
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Toll free: (800) 881-8234
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Office Hours
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:30 am – 5:00 pm
Wednesday: 9:30 am – 5:00 pm