



FINANCIAL AID: NEXT STEPS

You have an award letter. These are your next steps:

- ◆ **Read your award letter carefully.** Some financial aid funds are more favorable than others: take the time to learn the difference between grants, loans, and work-study. For assistance, call us or review the “Sources of Aid” on our web site.
- ◆ **Borrow only what you need.** Loans are not free money. You are expected to repay your student loans in the future. The amount of student loan funds offered in your award letter is sometimes much higher than the cost of your tuition, fees and books. While loan funds can also be used for other school-related expenses, you should borrow as little as you need. Call us or visit the College One Stop for help estimating your annual school costs and keeping your student debt low.
- **Accept your aid.** After you determine the amount of aid you need, you can accept your financial aid in one of two ways:
 - **Online:** Log into SIS at <http://sis.ccsnh.edu>. You will have the opportunity to decline a portion or the full amount of individual funds you do not wish to accept. Need help? We can email to you click-by-click instructions with pictures, email us at gbfinaid@ccsnh.edu.
 - **Paper:** Sign one copy of your award letter and write in the amount of individual funds you accept or decline.
- ◆ **Defer your bill.** Sign and return the enclosed Financial Aid Deferment if you want to use your grants and/or loans to pay your tuition and fees.
- ◆ **Authorize book funds.** If your financial aid is more than the cost of your tuition and fees, you may be able to use anticipated financial aid as payment for books. Sign the enclosed Title IV Authorization Form if you want to use your financial aid to buy your books at the Great Bay Bookstore
- ◆ **Complete loan requirements.** If you are borrowing a federal direct student loan for the first time at Great Bay, you are required to complete online loan entrance counseling and sign a Master Promissory Note (MPN). Visit <https://studentloans.gov> to complete both the entrance counseling and MPN. Great Bay will be notified electronically when you complete both tasks.

COLLEGE SERVICES ONE STOP

The One Stop is the place where you will conduct most college business, submit financial aid forms, register for classes, and pay your bill.

You may visit the One Stop to ask financial aid questions, or you can email us at gbFinAid@ccsnh.edu. Call us at (603) 427-7610.

Helpful Information: Financial Aid Eligibility

ENROLLMENT: You do not need to be a full-time student to receive financial aid, but you must be registered for at least 6 credits each semester to receive a student loan and certain grants. Consult with us if you plan to change your schedule. Registration changes almost always affect your financial aid awards.

ATTENDANCE: You must attend class to be eligible for financial aid payment. If you fail to appear for a course and are issued a grade of “N/A” financial aid will not pay for this course, and you will be responsible for the course charges.

ENROLLMENT FREEZE DATE: If you receive a Pell Grant, SEOG, or Unique Scholarship, your grant awards are calculated based on your registered credits and are subject to a “freeze date.” Your registered credits are recorded each term as of the freeze date, and your grant awards will be disbursed according to that enrollment status. If you add a class after the freeze date, your grants will not be increased to pay for the additional credits. If you drop a class after the freeze date, your grants may not be reduced, unless you drop a class for a full refund or you are issued a grade of “N/A.” The term freeze date is published in *The Registration Policies and Deadlines* guide every new term.

GRANT AWARDS: The grants listed in your initial Award Letter are based on full-time enrollment (12 or more credits enrollment per term.) If you enroll for fewer than 12 credits, your grants will be adjusted and subject to the enrollment freeze date policy explained above.

DISBURSEMENTS: Financial Aid funds will be disbursed to your GBCC student account about 30 days after your enrollments starts. Disbursements for late start parts of term are delayed until after the add/drop period for that part of term. This means that certain financial aid funds may not be disbursed to you until well after the midpoint of the semester, if you are registered for late start classes.

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS: The Financial Aid Office reviews your academic progress at the end of each term. You may be placed on warning or suspended from financial aid if your academic progress falls below the college’s standards. Review the standards on our website at <http://greatbay.edu/admissions-aid/financial-aid/policies>.

FEDERAL WORK STUDY: FWS is employment which allows you to earn an hourly wage and a bi-weekly paycheck during the academic year. The average job is 8 hours per week, in various departments and offices throughout the college.

Office of Financial Aid

contact us at

gbfinaid@ccsnh.edu or 603-427-7610