

INSTITUTIONAL FINANCIAL AID POLICY FOR
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Frostburg State University recognizes the importance of attracting students with exceptional academic credentials by offering financial rewards for excellence that will promote the development of a highly motivated student body. In addition, the Financial Aid Office acknowledges the significance of providing financial assistance to those with demonstrated financial need, who in the absence of such support would be unable to attend our university. Therefore, our university has made a commitment to use up to 5% of state-supported unrestricted funds to supplement federal, state, and private financial resources to provide a comprehensive program of financial assistance.

Assistance will be provided to both in-state and out-of-state students. Awards will be based on academic merit (including talents in the arts and/or demonstrated leadership qualities) and in some cases demonstrated financial need will be part of the criteria.

The following policy details the principles for awarding institutional student financial aid to undergraduate students at Frostburg State University. Definitions of some key terms in the awarding process are listed below:

Definitions:

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS: Monies that are awarded based on distinguished academic achievement and/or talents in the arts or demonstrated leadership qualities.

FINANCIAL NEED: In those cases where demonstrated financial need is part of the criteria for eligibility, the Financial Aid Office will use the needs analysis results of the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)* that determines financial need based on expected family contribution and cost of attendance. Priority will be given to those applicants who complete their financial aid applications by April 1. Students awarded scholarship money based on need must maintain satisfactory progress standards as defined in the college catalog.

INSTITUTIONAL STUDENT FINANCIAL AID: Funding provided from state-supported unrestricted funds that are not designated for a specific purpose.

Listed below are the criteria for awarding scholarships that will be funded with the aforementioned portion of unrestricted funds.

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Criteria:

- Applicants must be enrolled full time.
- Value of award is equal to annual tuition, room and board for up to eight semesters.
- Applicants must have combined SAT scores of 1300 and a high school GPA of 3.8 in academic courses, as defined by the Office of Admissions.
- Awards are available to in-state and out-of-state students.
- To retain the scholarship the student must maintain an FSU GPA of 3.4 or above and complete at least 24 credits per academic year.
- Students awarded must accept the offer of Admissions by May 1.

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

Criteria:

- Applicants must be enrolled full time.
- Value of award is equal to annual tuition for up to eight semesters for freshmen and up to four semesters for transfer students.
- Freshmen applicants must have combined SAT scores of 1200 and a high school GPA of 3.5 in academic courses, as defined by the Office of Admissions.
- Transfer students must have a minimum of 56 transferable credits or an AA degree and a 3.5 GPA at previously attended institution.
- Awards are available to in-state and out-of-state students.
- To retain the award, the recipient must have a cumulative FSU GPA of 3.25 or above and must complete 24 credits per academic year.
- Students awarded must accept the offer of Admissions by May 1.

TALENTS IN THE ARTS/LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Criteria:

- Applicants must be enrolled full time.
- Awards are available to in-state and out-of-state students.
- Students applying for a Talents in the Arts scholarship must provide the appropriate documentation (e.g. portfolio, an audition) to the sponsoring department (Music, Visual Arts, Communication and Theatre Arts). The sponsoring department will confirm the applicant's eligibility for this scholarship.
- Applicants seeking consideration for a leadership award must provide at least three letters of recommendation documenting the applicant's leadership roles or activities.
- Demonstrated financial need may be a determining factor and thus a **FAFSA** should be filed for consideration.
- Value of award is equal to annual tuition for up to eight semesters for freshmen and four semesters for transfer students.

- To retain the award, the student must have a 3.0 GPA or above and complete 24 credits per academic year.
- Students awarded must accept the offer of Admissions by May 1.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Criteria:

- Applicants must be enrolled full time.
- Value of award is equal to \$700 per semester for up to eight semesters for freshmen, a maximum of six semesters for continuing students, and a maximum of four semesters for transfer students.
- Freshmen applicants must have combined SAT scores of 1100 and a 3.5 academic high school GPA.
- Transfer students must have a minimum of 56 transferable credits or an AA degree and a 3.5 GPA at previously attended institution.
- Continuing students must have a minimum of a 3.5 GPA and complete at least 24 credits per academic year.
- Awards are available to in-state and out-of-state students.
- To retain the award, the recipient must have a cumulative FSU GPA of 3.25 or above and complete at least 24 credits per academic year.
- Students awarded must accept the offer of Admissions by May 1.

MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

Criteria:

- Applicants must be enrolled full time.
- Value of award is equal to tuition for the first year and will be divided equally between the fall and spring semesters. This award is **non-renewable**.
- Freshmen applicants must have combined SAT scores of 1100 and a 3.5 academic high school GPA.
- Transfer students must have a minimum of 56 transferable credits or an AA degree and a 3.5 GPA at previously attended institution.
- Awards are available to in-state and out-of-state students.
- Students awarded must accept the offer of Admissions by May 1.

In addition to the above scholarships, the university will make the following awards from special funds:

FSU Outstanding Scholar Award

Criteria:

- Resident of Allegany or Garrett County.
- SAT scores of at least 1200.
- A high school GPA of 3.5 or above in academic courses, as defined by the Office of Admissions.
- Applicants will be required to submit an application along with two letters of recommendation from appropriate personnel from their high school.

- Applicants will be required to submit a 500 word essay on "Education in a Changing Global Society" which must be submitted to the FSU Scholarship Committee for review.
- The scholarship is renewable for up to four years as long as the recipient maintains a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above.
- Value of award is \$1000 per academic year.

Residential Scholarship

Criteria:

- Both in-state and out-of-state students are eligible to apply.
- Freshman applicants must have an academic high school GPA of 3.0 or above as well as SAT scores of 1100 or above.
- Transfer students with 30 transferable credits and a GPA of 3.25 or above will be considered for the scholarship. In those cases where the transfer student has less than 30 credits, the applicant's SAT scores and academic high school GPA will be considered along with the GPA attained at the previously attended institution.
- The value of the award will be \$1000 which will be credited toward the recipient's room charges.
- The award is renewable for up to four years as long as the student continues to reside on campus and maintains a 3.0 cumulative GPA.

Governor's Special Needs Scholarship for the Handicapped

Criteria:

- Maryland residents with a documented handicap are eligible to apply.
- Freshmen applicants must have an academic high school GPA of 2.7 or above. Upperclassmen seeking consideration must have an academic GPA of 2.7 or above.
- The value of the award is annual tuition for one year.
- Applicants seeking consideration must contact the Student Support Services Office.

Frostburg State University Grants

Criteria:

- Applicant must be a U.S. citizen.
- Applicant must demonstrate financial need through the federal application process.
- Priority will be given to those individuals who contribute to the diversity goals of the University. Factors considered may include (but are not limited to) geographic origin, ethnic background, and the applicant's status as a first-generation college student. Applicants meeting these criteria will receive priority only when their applications for federal financial aid are completed by April 30. After this date, Frostburg State University Grants will be available to students who meet the criteria as identified above based on the availability of funds.

-- To retain the award, the student must continue to demonstrate need and meet Title IV academic progress standards as defined by the Financial Aid Office.

Offices designated to select recipients: Admissions and Financial Aid

Appeal Process: Applicants wishing to appeal the decisions made by individuals in the Offices of Admissions and Financial Aid may submit an appeal to the Admissions and Financial Aid Committee.

The Executive Committee of the University will identify on an annual basis the funds available for these scholarships. This amount may be modified throughout the fiscal year.

REPORTING:

The President will submit a report to the Board of Regents by October 1 of each year. This report will include the amount and proportion of institutional student aid awarded in each category and the number of recipients per category.

The University reserves the right to modify the policy for awarding scholarships and renewal procedures as deemed necessary. Such changes will be documented and retained in the Financial Aid Office.

Ref. BOR VIII - 2.41