

What You Need to Know:

Please review your award carefully and read this document completely. It is important that you begin checking your ECU Pirate email account at least weekly. All communication from this office will be sent to that account from this point on. You will receive an email if we require additional documentation to award your financial aid.

Students can also review the College Financing Plan by logging into PiratePort.

1. Select the Financial Aid Self Service
2. Select "College Financing Plan" from the menu links across the top

Accepting Your Financial Aid Offer

Any awarded grants or scholarships are automatically accepted on the student's behalf. Any offered Stafford loan or Federal Work Study (if offered) would need to be accepted via PiratePort. For steps to view and act on the award information visit <https://financialaid.ecu.edu/accepting-award-offer/>

Enrollment Status & Course Program of Study (CPOS)

This offer of financial aid is based on full-time enrollment (a minimum of 12 or more credit hours per semester). If you plan to "finish in four" you will need to enroll for 15 credits/ semester. If you enroll for fewer than 12 credits, your awards may be reduced or cancelled. Please check with our office if you plan to enroll for fewer than 12 credit hours.

Financial aid only pays for courses that are directly required for your program of study. For more information, visit: <https://financialaid.ecu.edu/cpos/> and discuss course options with your Academic Advisor during registration.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

You must maintain satisfactory academic progress in your program of study to receive financial aid. This requirement includes minimum standards for both cumulative grade point average (Cum GPA) and credits earned each semester. For continued funding, your Cumulative GPA must be at least 2.0 and you must complete at least 80% of the total credit hours you attempt.

Estimated Cost of Attendance (COA)

Please visit the "Financial Planning" section of our website at: <https://financialaid.ecu.edu> for a full table of Cost of Attendance options that may more appropriately apply to your situation. The Cost of Attendance is also listed on the "Award Offer" screen in the Financial Aid Self-Service portal via PiratePort.

Estimated Cost of Attendance (COA) is intended to demonstrate the maximum costs associated with attending ECU. Your actual costs will be determined by your living arrangements and lifestyle choices. The COA indicates the **maximum amount** of financial aid allowed for an academic period, including any additional parent or private student loan certifications. If you are receiving an award that is not listed, please either complete an **Additional Aid Form** (found on the "Forms" page of our website) and return it to our office, **or** enter this information at the bottom of the "Award Offer" in the Financial Aid Self-Service portal. **It is your responsibility to report all awards received. If you receive additional funds in excess of your cost of attendance/financial need, your aid will be adjusted.**

ECU First Day

A textbook rental program through Barnes & Noble and the campus bookstore, there is a \$20 per credit hour charge added to an undergraduate student's bill (\$300 if taking 15 hours). There is the possibility to "opt out" at the beginning of a semester. Undergraduates in designated Distance Education (DE) program are exempted from the program. For more information about the program, visit: <https://first-day.ecu.edu/>

Releasing Your Information to Other People

If you wish the Financial Aid Office to be able to discuss your financial aid file/status with others, such as your parent(s) or spouse, you must complete a Buckley Waiver Form. For more information or to submit this waiver, visit: <https://registrar.ecu.edu/ferpa-permissions/> **You must update their status each year.**

Refunds

Your financial aid award will be credited directly to your student account with the Cashier's Office. If you have a credit balance on your account at that time, the Cashier's Office will issue a refund to you. For more information regarding the refund process or setting up a direct deposit profile, please visit <https://cashier.ecu.edu/>.

Student Health Insurance

You must Enroll in or Waive-out of the ECU Student Health Insurance at www.studentblue.com/ECU. **NOTE:** If you do not complete the on-line waiver, you will be enrolled in and billed for the ECU health insurance plan automatically. Please contact ECU Student Health Services with any questions about the waiver process at 252-326-6841 or visit them at: <https://studenthealth.ecu.edu/ship/>

Please read the following award descriptions carefully. Pay special attention to the steps in bold type. If these steps are *not* completed, your aid will not disburse.

Federal Pell and Supplemental Education Opportunity (SEOG)

These grants are awarded based on a review of the FAFSA, enrollment status, and Satisfactory Academic Progress. Eligibility criteria and award amounts are dictated by the U.S. Department of Education. These awards do not need to be repaid.

Federal Direct Stafford (Subsidized/Unsubsidized) Loans

These are long-term, low-interest student loans that you must repay when you cease to be enrolled at least half-time. The loan(s) listed on the award letter is the maximum amount you can borrow this year. Before loan funds can be credited to your account, a first-time borrower must **(1) Accept the offer**, by following the directions on Pirate Port; **(2) complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN)** on the Direct Lending website, <https://studentaid.gov>; **(3) complete the Loan Entrance Counseling at the same site. Both require that the STUDENT log in with his/her federal FSA ID – the same log-in the student used to sign the FAFSA.** The loan Entrance Counseling is a federal requirement and takes 15 – 20 minutes to complete.

Federal Work-Study

The Federal work-study program allows you to work on campus an average of 17 (but no more than 25) hours per week during the academic year. Work-study funds will not be credited to your student account, instead you will receive a paycheck for hours worked and the hourly wage varies by job or position. Information about work-study jobs can be found with the Student Employment Office. <https://humanresources.ecu.edu/student-employment/>

State Grants and other aid

Grants are awarded by your home state and based on a review of your FAFSA, your enrollment status, and the availability of funds. For North Carolina residents these may include the NC Next fund. Grants do not need to be repaid **unless the student withdraws from the semester in which the funds were disbursed.** For more NC information go to www.cfnc.org.

If there is a remaining Amount Due:

Additional educational financing can be pursued through Alternative Loans/Private lenders, or through the Federal PLUS program. You may also review payment plan options under the "Cashier" link within the student portal at www.pirateport.ecu.edu/ or by contacting the Cashier's Office directly at 252-737-6886 or via email at: cashier@ecu.edu.

Right to Cancel

Federal regulations require the University to notify the student borrower (or parent for a Parent PLUS Loan) of the right to cancel all or a portion of the loan(s) listed on Pirate Port.

To do so, you must submit a written request within fourteen (14) days of the date of that notice and include the following information:

- 1) Type of loan(s) to be canceled.
- 2) Amount of loan(s) to be canceled.
- 3) Date of request; and
- 4) Signature of the borrower(s).

Upon receipt of the request, the University will cancel the loan(s) and return the funds to the lender/servicer. We will send written confirmation to the borrower at the borrowers' permanent address. If you cancel, after the loan has been applied to your account in the Office of the Cashier, you will be responsible for paying any outstanding balance.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Student Financial Aid at 252-328-6610 or email us at finaid@ecu.edu.