

Carnegie Mellon University

Consumer Information



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Section 1: Consumer Information

The Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) was enacted on August 14, 2008, and reauthorized the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA). These federal regulations govern the federal Title IV

financial aid programs and include several student consumer information disclosure requirements as well as reporting requirements for institutions participating in the federal financial aid programs. This reporting ranges from general information about an institution, to its educational programs and services, to its policies, and student outcomes. Carnegie Mellon makes all required consumer information disclosures readily available, including through our website at <https://www.cmu.edu/hub/consumer-information/> and through individual notifications to students when required or upon request.

Additionally, parents and students are welcome to contact Lisa Krieg, Associate Vice President and Director of Enrollment Services, at krieg@andrew.cmu.edu, for questions regarding any reporting area or to request a paper copy of the Student Consumer Information document.

Section 2: Accreditation and Licensing of the Institution

Carnegie Mellon University is accredited through a voluntary, peer-review process coordinated by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE or Middle States). The aim of the accreditation process is to ensure current and future students and the public that the university is providing a high-quality educational experience for students.

In the 2017-2018 academic year, a team of external reviewers from peer universities visited CMU to evaluate the university's educational and administrative activities. In preparation for that visit, CMU conducted a formal Self-Study (see <https://www.cmu.edu/middlestates/2018-self-study/index.html>) that engaged many faculty and staff from all over the university, in Pittsburgh and around the world. Faculty and staff composing Self-Study Groups (see <https://www.cmu.edu/middlestates/2018-self-study/working-groups.html>) and the peer evaluation team (see <https://www.cmu.edu/middlestates/2018-self-study/peer-evaluation-team.html>) often make suggestions or recommendations for improvement of CMU's activities and operations.

Please visit the pages within this site to learn more about accreditation standards and processes and to view the university's reaccreditation reports.

MSCHE is one of six regional accrediting agencies in the United States, each accrediting institutions of higher education within a specific geographic region. Middle States is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. This recognition enables MSCHE's member institutions to establish eligibility to participate in federal financial aid programs (e.g., federal loans, grants, and work-study) administered by the U.S. Department of Education. Carnegie Mellon University has been accredited by Middle States since 1921.

The address and telephone number for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education is 3624 Market Street, 2nd Floor West, Philadelphia, PA 19104, (267) 284-5000. To contact MSCHE by email, please use info@msche.org or Spanish/Español espanolinfo@msche.org.

The university's current "Statement of Accreditation Status" can be found at, <https://www.msche.org/institution/0476/>.

Inquiries regarding the University's accreditation status or authorization to operate in any of the above states may be directed to: Associate Vice President/Director of Enrollment Services, Carnegie Mellon University, 5000 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213, telephone: 412.268.5399, email: krieg@andrew.cmu.edu.

Carnegie Mellon University is licensed to operate in the states listed below. Individuals may contact the relevant agency for more information or information about how to file a complaint.

California

Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education
P.O. Box 980818
West Sacramento, CA 95798-0818
Telephone: 888-370-7589
Email: bppe@dca.ca.gov
Website: www.bppe.ca.gov

New York

New York State Education Department
Office of Higher Education
Room 977 Education Building Annex
Albany, NY 12234
Telephone: 518-486-3633
Email: hedepcom@nysed.gov
Website: www.highered.nysed.gov

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Department of Education
Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education
333 Market Street, 12th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333
Telephone: 717-783-8228
Email: ra-collunivseminfo@pa.gov
Website: www.education.state.pa.us

Washington, D.C.

Office of the State Superintendent of Education
Government of the District of Columbia
810 First Street NE 9th Floor
Washington, DC 20002
Telephone: 202-727-6436
Email: osse@dc.gov
Website: osse.dc.gov

Section 3: Distance Education, State Authorization and Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)

The State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) is an agreement among member states, districts, and territories in the United States, which establishes national standards for interstate offering of postsecondary distance education courses and programs. It is intended to standardize the process of offering online courses and programs by postsecondary institutions located in states other than the state in which the enrolled student(s) are residing. SARA is overseen by a national council (NC-SARA) and administered by four regional education compacts.

Carnegie Mellon University has been approved by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to participate in NC-SARA and was accepted as a SARA institution on May 2, 2017; additionally, Carnegie Mellon secured approval through NC-SARA on May 18, 2017. Carnegie Mellon University is listed as an approved, participating institution on the NC-SARA website (<http://www.nc-sara.org/>). At this time, 49 of the 50 United States are SARA members. California is not a member of SARA; however, Carnegie Mellon is able to offer online education to California residents.

Except where prohibited by applicable law, students who reside outside of the United States generally are not restricted from enrolling in our online programs. Some online programs do require in-person attendance at one of Carnegie Mellon's teaching locations (e.g., Carnegie Mellon's Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania campus) for short portions of the program. Students interested in enrolling in a specific online program are encouraged to contact the person designated by the online program for questions about the program's requirements or enrollment.

Section 4: Student Complaints & Consumer Information by State

Students should first attempt to handle complaints in consultation with their academic department and the university's Vice Provost for Education at vpe@andrew.cmu.edu. Unresolved complaints may be directed to the official complaint agency in the state or U.S. territory in which your state (or U.S. territory) is located. Through the university's participation in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA), you may access contact information for your state agency and instructions for filing complaints in your state using the SARA State Authorization Guide at <https://nc-sara.org/guide/state-authorization-guide>. If your state's complaint process is inadequate, complaints may be directed to the official complaint agency in the state or U.S. territory in which your CMU campus, additional location or other instructional site is

Section 5: Professional Licensure Disclosures at the State Level

In accordance with Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations Part 668.43(a)(5)(v) regarding information educational institutions must make readily available to enrolled and prospective students, Carnegie Mellon is providing the following professional licensure/certification disclosures:

School of Architecture

The Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch) and the Master of Architecture (M.Arch) degree programs are National Architecture Accrediting Board (NAAB)-accredited degree programs and meet the *educational requirements* for architectural licensure in all US States and the District of Columbia. Since each state has additional requirements for architectural licensure and those requirements vary among the states, students are advised to review the requirements for architectural licensure of the state in which they intend to obtain their license. The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) website at <https://www.ncarb.org/> and individual state architectural licensing board websites are good resources for researching additional architectural licensure requirements by state.

School of Music, Teacher Education Certification

Carnegie Mellon has determined that the Carnegie Mellon K-12 Music Education Certification program meets the *educational requirements* for educator licensure for instrumental, vocal, and general music (K-12) in the public schools of Pennsylvania, but has not determined whether it meets the educational requirements for educator licensure in other states or the District of Columbia. Students should also be aware that each state also has additional educator licensure requirements and those requirements vary among the states. Students are advised to review the requirements for educator licensure of the state in which they intend to obtain their license prior to starting the academic program. Individual state educator licensing board websites are good resources for researching additional educator licensure requirements by state.

Pennsylvania also participates as a reciprocating state (see <https://www.ecs.org/teacher-license-reciprocity-state-profiles/>) which allows for educators holding an educator's license in one state to earn a license in another state, subject to meeting specific state specific requirements of the other state. Information about educator licensure in Pennsylvania may be found on the PA Department of Education Website at <https://www.education.pa.gov/Educators/Certification/Pages/default.aspx>.

College of Engineering, Undergraduate Degree Programs

Carnegie Mellon's engineering programs (Mechanical Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering, and Electrical and Computer Engineering) are accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET (see <https://www.abet.org/>). In order to obtain professional engineer licensure in any state, students must graduate from an ABET-accredited program and meet testing and/or work experience requirements of the state in which they intend to obtain their license. Students are advised to review the requirements for professional engineer licensure of the state in which they intend to obtain their license. Information about professional engineer licensure in Pennsylvania may be found on the PA Department of State website at <https://www.dos.pa.gov/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardsCommissions/EngineersLandSurveyorsandGeologists/Pages/Engineer-Guide.aspx>.

The National Society of Professional Engineers website at <https://www.nspe.org/resources/licensure/licensing-boards> and individual state professional engineer licensing board websites are good resources for researching additional professional engineer licensure requirements by state.

Section 6: Educational Programs

[Undergraduate & Graduate Programs](#)

Carnegie Mellon offers dozens of programs including undergraduate and graduate offerings. A full list of our Schools and Colleges can be found here, <https://www.cmu.edu/academics/index.html>.

Carnegie Mellon offers a broad range of academic programs that are carefully designed, regularly assessed, and iteratively improved by the faculty in the responsible academic unit(s). Our students' educational experiences are aligned with the University's mission and goals and support our core values as well as our commitment to excellence. We strive to offer an inclusive educational environment where students are supported to grow and thrive while preparing for their professional and personal post-graduate pursuits. The Vice Provost for Education has the responsibility to coordinate efforts, in partnership with the academic deans and associate deans, to assure processes for the development, review, and continuous improvement of all academic programs are in place and regularly conducted at the department, college and university levels. The Vice Provost for Education may be contacted at: vpe@andrew.cmu.edu.

In addition to the link above, please visit our specific undergraduate and graduate websites:

Undergraduate Programs, <https://www.cmu.edu/admission/majors-programs>

Graduate Programs, <https://www.cmu.edu/graduate/academics/guide-to-graduate-degrees-and-programs/index.html>

Section 7: Study Abroad

A student's enrollment in a program of study abroad approved for credit by Carnegie Mellon may be considered enrollment at CMU for purpose of applying for assistance under Title IV of the Higher Education Act (HEA) as amended. For more information about study abroad and Coronavirus FAQs, please visit our website, <https://www.cmu.edu/oie/news-and-events/archives/2020-2021/covid/sab-and-coronavirus-faq.html>.

Section 8: CMU Faculty and Instructional Facilities

Information about faculty and instructional facilities may be found on individual college/school websites via our website, <https://www.cmu.edu/academics/>.

Section 9: Articulation Agreements

Cross-College and University Registration PCHE (Pittsburgh Council on Higher Education) Guidelines: Full-time Carnegie Mellon students may take courses for credit through the [Pittsburgh Council on Higher Education \(PCHE\)](#). This county-wide consortium of ten accredited member institutions permits the flow of students between institutions based on established protocols and agreements. Questions about Carnegie Mellon University's participation in PCHE may be directed to the University Registrar's Office at uro-pche@andrew.cmu.edu.

Section 10: Written Arrangements

The Written Arrangements document on <https://www.cmu.edu/hub/consumer-information/docs/written-arrangement.pdf> provides information regarding written arrangements between Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) and any institution(s) that provides a portion of a CMU degree program to students enrolled at CMU. CMU enters into such agreements to enrich the educational experiences offered to its students.

Section 11: Student Location Determination

Under the code of federal regulations (CFR) 600.9(c)(2)(iii) regarding state authorization requirements, an educational institution must make a determination regarding the state in which a student is located at the time of the student's initial enrollment in an educational program and, if applicable, upon formal receipt of information from the student, in accordance with the institution's procedures, that the student's location has changed to another state. Students are expected to review and update their off-campus residence and their permanent address in Student Information Online (SIO) at the beginning of each academic year and when they change their local and/or permanent addresses. For purposes of state authorization requirements, student location will be determined based on information in the Carnegie Mellon Student Information System (S3) in the following order:

1. Student's academic program code and;
2. Student's campus address, or;
3. Student's off-campus residence (if #1 and #2 cannot ascertain location) or;
4. Student's permanent address (if #1, #2, and #3 cannot ascertain location).

Section 12: Computing Services

Information about Computing Services provides technology services as part of the Division of Operations. The Computing Services central IT department provides services that have strategic impact on university goals and may be accessed on our website, <https://www.cmu.edu/computing/>.

Carnegie Mellon Computing Policy

Carnegie Mellon computing and related policies are available on our website: <https://www.cmu.edu/policies/information-technology/computing.html>

Section 13: Information Security Office (ISO)

The Information Security Office is responsible for coordinating compliance with state, federal and international laws and regulations dealing with the security of Carnegie Mellon's information resources. This includes partnering with the Office of General Counsel and impacted business units to implement appropriate policies, procedures and controls to maintain compliance with legal requirements. More information is available on the ISO website, <https://www.cmu.edu/iso/compliance/index.html>.

Section 14: Copyright

Digital Copyright and DMCA

Carnegie Mellon University takes copyright violation seriously. Besides raising awareness about copyright law, it takes appropriate action in support of enforcement as required by policy and law. United States [copyright law](https://www.copyright.gov/) (see <https://www.copyright.gov/>) "protects the original works of authorship fixed in any tangible medium of expression, from which they can be perceived, reproduced, or otherwise communicated, either directly or with the aid of a machine or device".

Fair Use Policy

The University's Fair Use Policy states that all members of the University must comply with US copyright law and it explains the fair use standards for using and duplicating copyrighted material. In addition, the policy prohibits the duplication of software for multiple uses, meeting the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) (see <https://www.copyright.gov/legislation/dmca.pdf>) requirements. The DMCA criminalizes the development or use of software that enables users to access material that is copyright protected. Furthermore, the Carnegie Mellon University Computing Policy (see <https://www.cmu.edu/policies/information-technology/computing.html>) prohibits the distribution of copyright protected material via the University network or computer systems, unless the copyright owner grants permission.

Peer to Peer File Sharing

The Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-315) Section 488, requires institutions of higher education to annually inform students that "unauthorized distribution of copyrighted material, including unauthorized peer-to-peer file sharing,

may subject the students to civil and criminal liabilities". Carnegie Mellon University does this by publication of a news article on Computing Services' website or via mass mail communication each semester. The law goes on to require institutions "to provide a summary of penalties for violation of Federal copyright laws, including disciplinary actions that are taken against students who engage in unauthorized distribution of copyrighted materials using the institution's information system." Copyright protected materials can include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- Music
- Movies or other videos
- Literary works
- Software
- Digital images or libraries

Penalties and Legal Actions

A user in violation of copyright law may face the following penalties:

- Suspension from the university network as described under The University Processing of a DMCA Notice.
- Prosecution in criminal court or a civil lawsuit seeking damages. Civil liability for copyright infringement can be as high as \$150,000 per instance of infringement in addition to legal fees. Criminal penalties for a first offense may be as high as five years in jail and a fine of \$500,000.
- Disciplinary action taken by the Human Resources, the Office of General Counsel, or the Office of Community Standards and Integrity depending on the specific affiliation of the alleged infringer.

Additional Information

Additional Information may be found on the following CMU web pages:

<https://library.cmu.edu/services/copyright>

<https://www.cmu.edu/c-cm/>

<https://www.cmu.edu/computing/>

Section 15: Student Activities

Student Affairs

In depth information about CMU Student Affairs, including student activities and organizations, service and civic engagement, student government, diversity and inclusion, and how to get involved on campus is available on the CMU website, <https://www.cmu.edu/student-affairs/get-involved/index.html>.

SLICE

The office of Student Leadership, Involvement and Civic Engagement (SLICE) website at <https://www.cmu.edu/student-affairs/slice/index.html> provides opportunities where undergraduate and graduate students can explore, connect and engage with one another to create a set of experiences that match their unique interests and talents.

The Center for Diversity and Inclusion

Diversity and inclusion have a singular place among the values of Carnegie Mellon University.

The Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion (CSDI) actively cultivates a strong, diverse and inclusive community capable of living out these values and advancing research, creativity, learning and development that changes the world.

The Center offers resources to enhance an inclusive and transformative student experience in dimensions such as access, success, campus climate and intergroup dialogue. Additionally, the Center supports and connects historically underrepresented students and those who are first in their family to attend college in a setting where students' differences and talents are appreciated and reinforced.

More information is available on the CMU website at <https://www.cmu.edu/student-diversity/>.

Section 16: Cost of Attending the University

Information about tuition and fees as well as estimated costs for books, course materials, supplies, and equipment; housing and food; transportation; and personal/miscellaneous expenses are available on the Student Financial Services' website at <https://www.cmu.edu/sfs/tuition/index.html>.

Section 17: Net Price Calculator

The Net Price Calculator is a tool that is intended for U.S. citizens, eligible non-citizens and permanent residents who plan on pursuing a full-time undergraduate degree but haven't yet applied to the university. This tool is a great way to start a conversation with your family about affordability as you conduct your college search. Carnegie Mellon offers the Net Price Calculator in partnership with the College Board to enable prospective students and their families to estimate financial aid eligibility. Before using the calculator, watch our Net Price Calculator tutorial video below for helpful tips. The video as well as other helpful information, are available on our website, <https://www.cmu.edu/admission/aid-affordability/net-price-calculator>.

Section 18: College Navigator

The College Navigator website is a free consumer information tool designed to help students, parents, and others get information about thousands of U.S. postsecondary institutions--including Carnegie Mellon University--in the Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). College Navigator includes information on graduation and retention rates, academic programs, costs, financial aid, student loan defaults, etc. The College Navigator website is <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>.

Section 19: Facilities & Services for Disabled Students

The Office of Disability Resources provides responsive and reasonable accommodations to students who self-identify as having a disability, including physical, sensory, cognitive and emotional disabilities. Students who want to learn more about the services and accommodations provided by the Office of Disability Resources, may visit <https://www.cmu.edu/disability-resources/students/>. Students may discuss accommodation needs by emailing access@andrew.cmu.edu or calling 412-268-6121 to set up an appointment.

Students are also welcome to discuss concerns about support for disabilities with members of the admission staff, housing office and/or health/psychological services. Upon enrollment, students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Resources to discuss their needs and to develop a Student Individual Accommodation Plan. Accommodations are made with the intent to maintain the academic integrity of each course and the academic program as a whole, while also meeting assessed needs.

Section 20: Student Privacy & FERPA

One of the most significant changes a parent or guardian experiences in sending a student to college is the difference in privacy standards for educational records. Carnegie Mellon values the student's right to privacy. The university adheres to a federal law called the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (also called FERPA or the Buckley Amendment) that sets privacy standards for student educational records and requires institutions to publish a compliance statement, including a statement of related institutional policies. For more detailed information, view the student privacy section of our website at <https://www.cmu.edu/hub/privacy/>

Section 21: Student Information and Outcomes

The Office of Institutional Analysis and Research (IRandA)

The Office of Institutional Analysis operates under the leadership of the Office of the Vice Provost for Institutional Effectiveness and Planning (see <https://www.cmu.edu/iep-office/index.html>) provides the CMU community with official information for use in external reporting and access to specific university datasets for internal analysis. More

information about IRandA is available on our website,
<https://www.cmu.edu/ira/index.html>.

Retention and Graduation Rates

Retention and graduation rates are available on the CMU website,
https://www.cmu.edu/ira/degrees-granted/graduation-and-retention-rates-by-cohort_11.4.2021.pdf (scroll to bottom).

Enrollment Counts

CMU Enrollment Counts are available on the CMU website,
<https://www.cmu.edu/ira/Enrollment/index.html>.

Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)

IPEDS gathers information required under the Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended from colleges and institutions who participate in the federal student financial aid programs. This information includes

Information for Carnegie Mellon is available on the IPEDS website:

Category	Website
General Information	https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/?q=Carnegie+Mellon&s=all&id=211440#general
Tuition, Fees & Estimated Student Expenses	https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/?q=Carnegie+Mellon&s=all&id=211440#expenses
Financial Aid	https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/?q=Carnegie+Mellon&s=all&id=211440#finaid
Net Price	https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/?q=Carnegie+Mellon&s=all&id=211440#netprc
Enrollment	https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/?q=Carnegie+Mellon&s=all&id=211440#enrolmt
Admissions	https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/?q=Carnegie+Mellon&s=all&id=211440#admsns
Retention & Graduation Rates	https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/?q=Carnegie+Mellon&s=all&id=211440#retgrad

Outcome Measures	https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/?q=Carnegie+Mellon&s=all&id=211440#outcome
Programs/Majors	https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/?q=Carnegie+Mellon&s=all&id=211440#programs
Service Members & Veterans	https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/?q=Carnegie+Mellon&s=all&id=211440#service
Varsity Athletic Teams	https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/?q=Carnegie+Mellon&s=all&id=211440#sports
Accreditation	https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/?q=Carnegie+Mellon&s=all&id=211440#accred
Campus Security and Safety	https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/?q=Carnegie+Mellon&s=all&id=211440#crime
Cohort Default Rates	https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/?q=Carnegie+Mellon&s=all&id=211440#fedloans

Common Data Set

The most recent information about Carnegie Mellon’s common data set is available through our website, https://www.cmu.edu/ira/CDS/cds_2122.html. Common data set includes:

[General Information](#)

[Enrollment and Persistence \(.pdf\)](#)

[First-Time, First-Year \(Freshman\) Admission \(.pdf\)](#)

[Transfer Admission \(.pdf\)](#)

[Academic Offerings and Policies \(.pdf\)](#)

[Student Life \(.pdf\)](#)

[Annual Expenses \(.pdf\)](#)

[Financial Aid \(.pdf\)](#)

[Instructional Faculty and Class Size \(.pdf\)](#)

[Degrees Conferred \(.pdf\)](#)

Section 22: Career & Job Placement

Career & Job Placement Service

The Career and Professional Development Center (CPDC) is Carnegie Mellon University’s centralized career services center providing a comprehensive range of services, programs and materials focusing on career exploration and decision making, professional development, experiential learning and employment assistance to meet

today's evolving workplace and student goals of finding satisfying work! Information about the resources provided by CPDC is available on the CMU website, <https://www.cmu.edu/career/resource-library/index.html>.

First Destination Career Outcomes

The Career and Professional Development Center (CPDC) surveys all students graduating from Carnegie Mellon University (excluding Heinz College and Tepper graduate students) in order to obtain information on their career plans after graduation, also known as **First Destination** Career Outcomes. Common points of data gathered from graduates include hiring companies, graduate and professional schools, starting salaries, and geographic locations. More information may be found on the CMU website, <https://www.cmu.edu/career/outcomes/post-grad-dashboard.html>.

Section 23: Health and Safety

Annual Security and Fire Safety Report

A copy of the most recent CMU Annual Security and Fire Safety Report is available on the CMU website at <https://www.cmu.edu/police/reporting-policy-training/2022asr.pdf>. Please see page 14 for Emergency Response and Evacuation Procedures. A printed copy of the report may be requested by contacting University Police at 412-268-6232 or campuspd@andrew.cmu.edu.

Historical annual security and fire safety reports (Carnegie Mellon University Police Department Annual Reports) are also available online at <http://www.cmu.edu/police/annualreports/>.

Alcohol and Drug Policy (Faculty, Staff, Students)

The University's Alcohol and Drug Policy, which includes information about health risks associated with drug and alcohol as well as resources for individuals who are experiencing substance use difficulties, is published on <https://www.cmu.edu/student-affairs/pdfs/2022-2023-alcohol-and-drug-guide-cmu.pdf>. The policy focuses on compliance with laws in the United States and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. However, as a global university with operations throughout the world, Carnegie Mellon is equally committed to compliance with all applicable alcohol and drug laws in all jurisdictions in which the university operates.

Vaccination Policies

The university values personal and community health and recognizes the critical role that each individual plays in contributing to community health by participating in personal health care practices that prevent the spread of contagious diseases.

Participation in a vaccination program represents one such highly effective personal health practice. CMU Prematriculation Immunization Policy is published on <http://www.cmu.edu/policies/student-and-student-life/immunizations.html>.

COVID vaccine requirements change frequently. The most up-to-date information on COVID vaccination requirements is published on <https://www.cmu.edu/coronavirus/health-and-wellness/vaccines.html> and <https://www.cmu.edu/coronavirus/>. Immunization requirements for incoming students are published on <https://www.cmu.edu/health-services/new-students/>.

Emergency Response Plan

The purpose of the Emergency Response Plan is to establish an organizational structure and procedures for response to major emergencies. It assigns the roles and responsibilities for the implementation of the plan during an emergency following the incident command system model. This plan has been prepared to address all types of emergencies affecting the Carnegie Mellon community in a coordinated and systematic manner. Carnegie Mellon University is committed to supporting the welfare of its students, faculty, staff and visitors. This plan is designed to maximize human safety and preservation of property, minimize danger, restore normal operations of the university, and assure responsive communication to all appropriate parties. See <https://www.cmu.edu/student-affairs/theword/community-policies/emergency-response-plan.html#scope> for more information.

Section 24: Equity in Athletics

The Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act requires co-educational institutions of postsecondary education that participate in a Title IV, federal student financial assistance program, and have an intercollegiate athletic program, to prepare an annual report to the Department of Education on athletic participation, staffing, and revenues and expenses, by men's and women's teams.

Statute and Regulations

The Higher Education Opportunity Act (Public Law 110-315) (HEOA) was enacted on August 14, 2008. This law reauthorizes and extends the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended. The Higher Education Act (HEA) provides the statutory authority for most of the programs and activities administered or conducted by the Office of Postsecondary Education, including requirements related to equity in athletics disclosure.

Annual Report

This information is available each November 1 at the U.S. Department of Education's website <https://ope.ed.gov/athletics/#>. To view the data, please select "Get data for one institution" (usually located on the right side of the page), enter "Carnegie Mellon University" in the "Name of Institution" field, and select the "Search" button at the bottom of the page. Select "Carnegie Mellon University" to view the institution's data.

A printed copy of the university's most recent report is available upon request by calling

the Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation at 412-268-8054 or by sending an email to jcentor@andrew.cmu.edu.

Section 25: Textbook Information

Bookstore

Required and recommended textbooks and supplemental course materials are available to purchase from the University Stores. Students can view and purchase their course materials by visiting the online bookstore at https://bncvirtual.com/vb_home.php?FVCUSNO=37983&url=CarnegieMellon.htm. To get started, students can visit the Textbooks FAQ at <https://bookstore.web.cmu.edu/SiteText?id=73594> for instructions on using the online bookstore site. The University Stores staff is happy to help with questions and can be reached by email at books@andrew.cmu.edu, by phone at 412-268-5591, or in-store.

Textbook Provisions (Higher Education Opportunity Act 2008)

The Higher Education Opportunities Act (HEOA) of 2008 (see <https://www.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/house-bill/4137>) outlines several provisions for publishers and higher education institutions related to textbooks and other course materials. According to the law, the language addressing textbooks is meant to “ensure that students have access to affordable course materials by decreasing costs to students and enhancing transparency and disclosure with respect to the selection, purchase, sale, and use of course materials (Sec. 133 a.)”

Textbook consumer information requirements are provided on <https://www.cmu.edu/es/course-and-classroom/textbooks.html>.

Section 26: Voter Registration

Pennsylvania

- **Pennsylvania Voter Registration** (see <https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/VoterRegistrationApplication.aspx>)
- **Find Your PA Polling Place** (see <https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/pages/pollingplaceinfo.aspx>)

California

- **California Online Voter Registration** (see <https://registertovote.ca.gov/>)
- **Find Your CA Polling Place** (see <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/polling-place>)

New York

- **New York Online Voter Registration** (see <https://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingRegister.html>)

- **Find Your NY Polling Place** (see <https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov/>)

District of Columbia

- **Washington DC Voter Registration** (see <https://vote.gov/register/dc/>)
- **Find Your DC Polling Place** (see <https://www.dcboe.org/Voters/Where-to-Vote/Find-Out-Where-to-Vote>)

Section 27: Tuition Adjustments/Withdrawals from the University

Tuition Adjustments

If a student takes a leave of absence or withdraws within the first ten class days (fifteen calendar days) of a semester, tuition and fees are fully refundable, as indicated on the tuition adjustment schedule (see <https://www.cmu.edu/sfs/tuition/adjustment/index.html>). Students who take a leave of absence or withdraw from the university before completing 60% of the semester will be assessed tuition based on the number of days completed within the semester. This includes calendar days, class and non-class days, from the first day of classes to the last day of final exams. Breaks that last five days or longer, including the preceding and subsequent weekends, are not counted. Thanksgiving and Spring Break are not counted. There is no tuition adjustment after 60% of the semester is completed.

Official Date of Leave of Absence/Withdrawal

For students who notify the university of their intent to take a leave of absence or withdraw, the official date is the earliest of the:

- Date the student began the withdrawal or leave of absence process;
- Date the student notified his or her home department;
- Date the student notified the associate dean of his or her college; or
- Date the student notified the dean of students.

For students who do not notify the University of their intent to take a leave of absence or withdraw, the official date is:

- The midpoint of the semester;
- The last date the student attended an academic-related activity, such as an exam, tutorial or study group, or the last day a student turned in a class assignment.

Other important information about tuition adjustments & withdrawals from the University as well as tuition adjustment schedules may be found on the following website: <https://www.cmu.edu/sfs/tuition/adjustment/index.html>.

Tepper Refund Policy Exception:

Tepper School graduate tuition is refunded 100% to students who withdraw by the course drop deadline. After the course drop deadline, tuition is non-refundable and remains charged at 100%. This tuition refund policy is separate from the calculation used to cancel and return federal loan funds when students withdraw.

Section 28: Transfer of Credit Policy

The University's Transfer of Credit Policy is published on <https://www.cmu.edu/policies/student-and-student-life/transfer-credit-evaluation-and-assignment.html>.

Transfer credit is only accepted for courses taken at accredited institutions from which an official transcript is received. Transfer credits must meet the academic requirements of the program in which the student is enrolled and may not exceed the maximum number of transferrable units, per the program's academic requirements. Courses accepted for credit must have been taken for a letter grade and students must have earned a C (2.00) or above in the transferred course, however, transfer credits will only record the units/credits earned, **not** the grade, unless the course is taken at one of the [Cross-Registration \(PCHE\)](#) affiliates. Carnegie Mellon does not award course credit for prior experience such as service in the armed forces, paid or unpaid employment, or other "real world" learning experiences or demonstrated competency. See additional information, <https://www.cmu.edu/hub/registrar/registration/transfer-transcripts.html>

Departmental transfer credit processes may vary. Please review information on your college or school of interest websites through <https://www.cmu.edu/academics>.

Section 29: Contact Information for Assistance in Obtaining Institutional or Financial Aid Information

Current Undergraduate Students:

Student Financial Aid Office

Mailing Address: Carnegie Mellon University, 5000 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Telephone: 412-268-8186

Fax: 412-268-8084

Email: thehub@andrew.cmu.edu

Website: <https://www.cmu.edu/sfs/financial-aid/undergraduate/index.html>

Prospective Undergraduate Students:

Student Financial Aid Office

Mailing Address: Office of Undergraduate Admission, Carnegie Mellon University, 5000 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Telephone: 412-268-2082

Fax: 412-268-7838

Email: admission@andrew.cmu.edu

Website: <https://www.cmu.edu/admission/aid-affordability>

Current and Prospective Graduate Students:

Student Financial Aid Office

Mailing Address: Carnegie Mellon University, Student Financial Aid Office, 5000 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Telephone: 412-268-8186

Fax: 412-268-8084

Email: thehub@andrew.cmu.edu

Website: <https://www.cmu.edu/sfs/financial-aid/graduate/index.html>

Section 30: Types of Financial Aid

There are various types of financial aid available for Carnegie Mellon students, including federal, state, and institutional. Understanding financial aid eligibility and the financial aid award letter will help students and families navigate financing decisions that need to be made while attending Carnegie Mellon. Visit our website at <https://www.cmu.edu/sfs/financial-aid/your-award/index.html> for help in understanding your financial aid awards.

Undergraduate Grants

Grant assistance is awarded on the basis of demonstrated financial need. Students do not need to work for or repay grants. Grants are commonly referred to as "gift aid."

More information may be found on our website, <https://www.cmu.edu/sfs/financial-aid/types/scholarships-and-grants/grants.html>.

Federal Pell Grant

A **Federal Pell Grant** is awarded by the federal government to students with high financial need. Students who are eligible for a Federal Pell Grant after their aid package is determined, will notice a dollar-for-dollar reduction to their Carnegie Mellon need-based grant funds. More information can be found on the Department of Education website, <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/grants/pell>.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant

A **Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)** is for undergraduate students who have exceptional financial need. Carnegie Mellon usually awards these grants to students who receive a Federal Pell Grant. If there is a change in Federal SEOG eligibility, a dollar-for-dollar adjustment to the student's Carnegie Mellon need-based grant funds will occur. More information can be found on the Department of Education website, <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/grants/fseog>.

State Grants

Some states, including the state of Pennsylvania, provide educational grants to their residents who demonstrate need. View a list of participating states on <https://www.cmu.edu/sfs/financial-aid/types/scholarships-and-grants/state-grants.pdf>.

Upon notification from any state agency of a student's eligibility, Carnegie Mellon will modify the student's financial aid package to reduce Carnegie Mellon need-based grant funds dollar-for-dollar.

See the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) website, https://www.nasfaa.org/State_Financial_Aid_Programs, for more information on state grants.

Graduate Scholarships, Grants, Stipends, Assistantships, Fellowships

Funding for graduate students may include scholarships, grants, stipends, assistantships, and fellowships. For information about these awards, contact the academic department you plan to attend. The department will be able to discuss the amounts and requirements for each type of funding.

Student Employment

There are three types of hourly student employment options available:

- Federal Work-Study (FWS): Funding = 40% Federal / 60% Employer
- Federal Community Service Work-Study (FCS): Funding = 70% Federal / 30% Employer
- **Non-Work-Study (NWS):** Funding = 100% Employer

Federal Work-Study (FWS) is a need-based self-help award. If a student has been awarded FWS, the FWS award is the total that can be earned during the academic year as a work-study student. It is important to note that funds earned in the Federal Work-Study Program (including the Federal Community Service Work Study Program) are not credited to the student's account.

Students who do not have financial need or who have not applied for financial aid may find non-work-study job opportunities on campus.

More information about student employment is available on the following website:

- *FAQs:* <https://www.cmu.edu/sfs/student-employment/faq.html>
- *On Campus Employment for Students:* <https://www.cmu.edu/career/students-and-alumni/on-campus-employment/index.html>
- *Student Hourly Positions:* <https://www.cmu.edu/sfs/student-employment/hourly-positions.html>

Loans

Several types of loans are available to students who meet eligibility requirements. Information about federal, institutional, and private loans is available on <https://www.cmu.edu/sfs/financial-aid/types/index.html>. The site includes detailed information about loan terms and how to apply.

Note that the following disclosure is required for Carnegie Mellon students enrolled in California: If a student obtains a loan to pay for an educational program, the student will have the responsibility to repay the full amount of the loan plus interest, less the amount of any refund (amount returned to the loan program, if any). If the student has received federal student financial aid funds, the student is entitled to a refund of the moneys not paid from federal student financial aid program funds. Learn more about student account refunds on our website, <https://www.cmu.edu/sfs/billing/refunds.html>.

Federal Direct Student Loans

Federal Direct Student Loans are the most widely-used loan for college students. Eligibility is determined by completing the FAFSA. Types of Federal Direct Loans include Federal Direct subsidized, unsubsidized, and Plus (for parents or graduate students). Detailed information about Federal Direct Student Loans is available on our website, <https://www.cmu.edu/sfs/financial-aid/types/federal-loans/direct/index.html>.

Federal Loan Repayment

Federal student loans offer flexible repayment plans, loan consolidation, forgiveness programs, and more. View more information on [loan repayment options](https://studentaid.gov/) on <https://studentaid.gov/>, where you can find comprehensive information about your federal loans, including your loan amounts and balances, your loan servicer and contact information, your interest rates, your current loan status, guidance on loan repayment options, etc.

Repayment plans determine your monthly student loan payment amount, how many years it will take to pay back what you borrowed, and how much interest you will pay over the life of your loan. Keep in mind, the longer it takes to pay back your loan, the more interest will accrue and increase the overall cost of your loan. *Note that any private loans you have borrowed do not appear on studentaid.gov.*

Federal Student Loan Entrance Counseling*

All first-time Federal Direct Loan borrowers are required complete an online entrance counseling session after receipt of the financial aid award letter. The session provides information about borrower rights and responsibilities. CMU is notified when a student has completed entrance counseling. Students who have completed a federal entrance counseling session while at CMU, do not have to complete another one. You may view instructions on <https://www.cmu.edu/sfs/financial-aid/types/federal-loans/direct/mpn-entrance-counseling.html>.

Student Rights and Responsibilities/Master Promissory Note (MPN)*

All first-time Direct Loan borrowers are required to complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN). The MPN is a legal document in which you promise to repay your loan(s) and any accrued interest and fees to the U.S. Department of Education. It also explains the terms and conditions of your loan(s) and sample loan repayments. All student borrowers must read and understand their rights and responsibilities when choosing to borrow a federal loan. The MPN is available on the U.S. Department of Education website, <https://studentaid.gov/mpn/>.

*Loan funds will not disburse until both Entrance Counseling and the MPN are completed.

Federal Loan Exit Counseling

Upon ceasing enrollment and prior to beginning loan repayment federal loan borrowers are required to complete an online exit counseling session. Federal loan exit counseling provides important information you need to prepare to repay your federal student loans. Topics include understanding your loans, plans for repayment, avoiding default, and making finances a priority. Exit counseling may be completed on the U.S. Department of Education website, <https://studentaid.gov/exit-counseling/>. See also the *Direct Loan Exit Counseling Guide* on <https://studentaid.gov/sites/default/files/exit-counseling.pdf>.

Yeknik Student Loan

The Yeknik Student Loan Fund is endowed by Wayne M. and Nancy Yeknik. It is an institutional loan awarded to students who are sophomores, juniors, and seniors, have a cumulative 3.0 QPA, and have financial need. More information is available on our website, <https://www.cmu.edu/sfs/financial-aid/types/yeknik.html>.

Private Education Loans

Private loans are a borrowing option for some students. Carnegie Mellon recommends that you review your federal, state, and institutional grants and loan options to compare borrower benefits and loan terms before opting to borrow a private education loan because the terms and conditions of federal student loans may be more favorable than those of private education loans.

Carnegie Mellon University does not endorse any lender. Carnegie Mellon uses a loan comparison tool called FastChoice (see, <https://choice.fastproducts.org/FastChoice/home/324200>) that is offered free-of-charge to schools by the Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation. The lenders presented in FastChoice include lenders from whom our students have borrowed over the past two years and who have demonstrated a high level of service or other benefit to our students. This list is updated annually and is not-all inclusive. Students should understand that they may choose any lender they wish (even those not presented in Fast Choice) without penalty or unnecessary delays.

Private Loan Self-Certification Form

Pursuant to Section 155 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, (HEA) and to satisfy the requirements of Section 128(e)(3) of the Truth in Lending Act, a lender must obtain a self-certification signed by the applicant before disbursing a private education loan. The school is required on request to provide this form or the required information only for students admitted or enrolled at the school. The Self Certification form is available through your lender and on our website at <https://www.cmu.edu/sfs/docs/private-loan-cert.pdf>. If the information needed to complete the form is not pre-filled on the form, you may access the information on your financial aid award letter from the school or by contacting the Student Financial Aid Office at student-financial-aid@andrew.cmu.edu.

Lender Relationship Code of Conduct

Carnegie Mellon officials are prohibited from accepting any financial or other benefits in exchange for displaying lenders and loan options in FastChoice. Our lender relationship code of conduct is published on <https://www.cmu.edu/sfs/docs/loans-code-of-conduct.pdf>.

Section 31: Financial Aid Disbursements

Financial aid (including student loans) is disbursed one semester at a time based on the student's enrollment at the time of each disbursement. The Student Financial Aid Office begins to disburse aid to student accounts approximately 10 days before classes begin for students who have completed the necessary requirements.

Grants and Scholarships Disbursements

Grants and scholarships are determined by the Student Financial Aid Office and are applied directly to the student account on a semester basis to pay charges for tuition, fees and on-campus room and board (if applicable).

Federal Loan Disbursements

First-time Federal Direct Loan borrowers are required to sign a Master Promissory Note and complete loan entrance counseling before loan funds are credited to the student account. After these loan requirements are completed (no sooner than 10 days prior to the start of the semester), federal loans are disbursed to the student account. Disbursements are made to the student account in two equal payments (unless the loan is for one semester) - one for each semester covered by the loan. It is very important to understand that before federal student loans disburse, loan proceeds are reduced by the federal origination fee (see, <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans/interest-rates#fees>) Upon disbursement, actual amounts may be viewed by logging into Student Information Online (SIO) on <https://www.cmu.edu/hub/sio/about.html> and selecting "Student Account Activity" from the "Finances" menu.

View loan disbursement dates here: <https://www.cmu.edu/sfs/financial-aid/index.html#disbursement>

Private Loan Disbursements

Generally, private loan disbursements occur at the beginning of each semester covered by the loan. Students should review their loan disclosures from their lender in order to determine the actual anticipated disbursement dates for private loans. Actual disbursements amounts can be viewed after they occur by logging into Student Information Online (SIO) on <https://www.cmu.edu/hub/sio/about.html> and selecting “Student Account Activity” from the “Finances” menu.

Federal Work-Study Disbursements

Students who are awarded Federal Work-Study may earn Federal Work-Study funds by working in positions with eligible employers. Wages are paid bi-weekly through the payroll system. **These funds are not disbursed directly to the student account.**

Outside Scholarships Disbursements

Once the Student Financial Aid Office receives outside scholarship funds, they are credited to the student account and the student is notified if the outside scholarship reduces their eligibility for other financial aid. If the scholarship provider issues the funds by check, the student will be contacted to endorse the check prior to the funds being credited to their student account.

Financial Aid/Student Account Refunds

When financial aid disburses, it is credited against the student account balance. If there is a credit balance remaining on the student account after all tuition and fees are paid, the student account is reviewed to determine if the student is eligible for a credit balance refund. If eligible, the refund is issued to the student either electronically (if you signed up for electronic refunding) or by paper check. View more information about refunds on our website, including electronic refund steps, on: <https://www.cmu.edu/sfs/billing/refunds.html>.

Section 32: Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy & Procedural Statement

To be eligible for federal, state, and institutional financial aid, all students are required to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress toward the completion of a degree. Each university determines its own policy in accordance with federal regulations set forth by the U. S. Department of Education regarding satisfactory progress standards to ensure student success. To maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress at Carnegie Mellon University, students must meet the following minimum standards for both of the qualitative (QPA) and quantitative (completion rate) measures:

Student Type	QPA (Qualitative)	Completion Rate (Quantitative)*
First Year Undergraduate	1.75	80%
Upperclass	2.00	80%
Graduate	3.00	80%

*To calculate the completion rate, the cumulative number of completed units is divided by the cumulative number of units attempted. Advance Placement credits are excluded from both figures. In addition to the above-mentioned Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress standards, federal regulations require a student to complete their degree within a specified amount of time. The maximum timeframe cannot exceed 150 percent of the time published as needed for completion of the program. Scope: This policy applies to Federal aid including Federal Pell Grants, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, Federal Work-Study, Federal Direct Loans, and Federal Direct PLUS Loan programs; state grant aid; and Carnegie Mellon institutional aid including grants, loans, and scholarships.

Federal regulations can be found at: Federal Student Aid Handbook, Volume 1 Chapter 1 School Determined Requirements 34 CFR 668.16(e) 34 CFR 668.32(f) 34 CFR 668.34

Evaluation:

Carnegie Mellon evaluates all students for Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress annually, at the end of the spring semester. Students that are included in the review are undergraduates, graduates, both full-time and part-time. Courses that do not count toward a student's degree cannot be used to determine enrollment status for financial aid purposes. Carnegie Mellon will count transfer credit hours that are accepted toward a student's educational program as both attempted hours and completed hours. Advanced Placement Non-Degree and Non-Credit courses are not counted as units passed or attempted. When a course is repeated, all grades will be recorded on the official academic transcript and will be calculated in the student's QPA.

For financial aid eligibility, only one repeat per course is permitted in the determination of enrollment status for courses previously passed. If the student withdraws and is not assigned a W grade, then it will not be counted in the number of units attempted or completed. If the W grade is assigned, the units will be counted in the number of units attempted and will be counted as zero in the number of units completed. If the student has incomplete units, the units will be counted as attempted and will be counted as zero in the number of units completed.

The Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress evaluation is a cumulative review of all semesters, regardless of whether or not the student received financial aid during the academic year. If the minimum requirements are not achieved, the student is ineligible to receive financial aid. In such a case, the student is notified and given an option to appeal their financial aid status. More information about the appeal process can be

found at www.cmu.edu/sfs/financial-aid/policies/academic-progress.html. A financial aid package will not be completed unless an appeal is received, approved and processed accordingly. If by chance a financial aid package is processed and released to the student, it is conditional and subjected to financial aid removal until an appeal is received, approved and processed accordingly. Contact: Questions regarding this policy or its intent should be directed to the Student Financial Aid Office at 412- 268-1353.

Appeal Process

Carnegie Mellon realizes that extenuating circumstances may contribute to a student's inability to achieve Satisfactory Academic Progress. Once a student receives notification of their Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress status and it is determined that they are not making progress, the student is encouraged to appeal the determination.

A letter of notification will be mailed to the student that will address the requirements for Satisfactory Academic Progress and define the student's specific academic progress to date. This letter will also address the appeal process and provide directions for filing the appeal.

A student may appeal a Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress decision by writing a letter explaining the extenuating circumstances, defining information that prevented them from making academic progress and what has changed in their situation that would allow them to demonstrate satisfactory academic progress at the next evaluation. The next period of evaluation will be defined in the appeal notification and may be the next semester or combination of enrollment periods.

This letter should be attached to the Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Form and returned to The HUB, ATTN: Financial Aid Academic Progress. The student will be notified in writing of the appeal decision within two weeks of the receipt of the appeal.

Examples of Appeals:

- Extended illness
- Changes in major
- Difficult transition to first-year in college (academically and socially)
- Recent diagnosis of learning disability
- Recent death of a close family member

If summer courses at Carnegie Mellon will enable the student to meet the minimum academic progress requirements, the student will regain financial aid eligibility. The student should submit an appeal or send an email to thehub@andrew.cmu.edu indicating that they have now achieved Satisfactory Academic Progress due to summer course completion. If the student takes courses at another institution during the summer that will increase the number of units completed,

they will need to forward a copy of the official transcript to their HUB liaison with the copy clearly marked "ATTN: Financial Aid Academic Progress."

If there are missing grades for the spring semester, the student will need to have their instructor update the missing grades. Grades can be checked via Student Information Online (SIO) on our website, <https://www.cmu.edu/hub/sio/about.html>. When all missing grades have been updated, the student should email their HUB liaison to indicate that Satisfactory Academic Progress has been achieved due to the updating of missing grades.

If an appeal is approved for the fall semester only, then the fall semester is considered a probationary semester for financial aid eligibility. To be eligible for financial aid funds for the spring semester, the student is required to achieve a cumulative 2.0 QPA (3.0 for graduate students) and successfully pass a minimum of 80% of the accumulated units attempted/carried. Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress evaluation and reinstatement of spring financial aid occurs shortly after the fall grade submission deadline.

Depending on the nature of the appeal, the appeals committee may require the student to develop an academic plan in consultation with their academic advisor, which may put the student on track to successful program completion. This will be determined on an individual student basis and depend on the length of the student's enrollment, class completion rate and earned grade point average. All subsequent or second appeals will require an academic plan.

If the student is required to develop an academic plan, their progress is reviewed at the end of each payment period according to the requirements specified in the plan. If the student is meeting the requirements of the academic plan, they are eligible to receive financial aid as long as they continue to meet those requirements.

If an appeal is denied, the student should make arrangements to meet with their HUB liaison and an Associate Director of Student Financial Aid to discuss funding options. If an appeal is not received, the student is not eligible to receive financial aid.

Financial Aid Academic Progress Improvement Plan

Students who are unable to meet the minimum satisfactory academic requirements for Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress may be required to design and submit a [Financial Aid Academic Progress Improvement Plan \(pdf\)](#) (see, <https://www.cmu.edu/sfs/docs/academic-plan.pdf>). The goal of the improvement plan is to ensure the student makes documented steady progress toward meeting our Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress standards and graduates within the university's normal time frame to complete a degree. The need for the plan will be determined on an individual student basis and depend on the length of the student's enrollment, class completion rate and earned grade point average. All subsequent or second appeals will require an academic plan. View more details about the Financial Aid Academic Progress Improvement Plan on our website, <https://www.cmu.edu/sfs/financial-aid/policies/academic-plan.html>.

Section 33: Federal Title IV Verification Policy and Procedural Statement

Policy Reason

The U. S. Department of Education requires that Federal Title IV applicants provide documentation to verify the accuracy of the information submitted on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each year. Federal regulations include verification as part of the Federal Student Aid (FSA) program requirements, and it is required for applicants for most FSA programs with the exception of students receiving only a parent or graduate PLUS loan or an unsubsidized Stafford loan. Each university is required to have policies for verifying the reported information.

Federal regulations can be found at: Federal Student Aid Handbook Application & Verification Guide Chapter 4: Verification, Updates, and Corrections 34 CFR 668.51-61.

Policy and Procedural Statement

Federal verification guidelines require that applicants are selected for verification by the Central Processing System (CPS) or by the school. At Carnegie Mellon, federal verification is performed on all applicants selected by the CPS and any application that the university has reason to believe is incorrect or has conflicting documentation.

Under certain circumstances a CPS selected application may be excluded from some or all of the federal verification requirements due to the following unusual circumstances including:

- death of the student,
- not an aid recipient,
- applicant is eligible to receive only unsubsidized student financial assistance,
- applicant verified by another school or post enrollment (the student was selected for verification after ceasing to be enrolled).

With the exception of the death of the student, however, none of these exemptions excuse the university from the requirement to resolve conflicting information.

Federal verification must typically be completed prior to the end of the academic year or before the student ceases enrollment, whichever occurs first. Students, who fail to comply with verification requirements, including submitting documentation within required timelines, will not have Federal Title IV funds disbursed and may have Federal Title IV funds cancelled. Carnegie Mellon considers the student to be the responsible party for providing information and completing the verification process.

Carnegie Mellon identifies the students selected for verification during the financial aid application process by viewing the FAFSA output document called the Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR). A review of the student's financial aid application occurs after ISIR data is received and data entry of required information is completed. The ISIR will provide information about the student and family including a calculated

Expected Family Contribution (EFC), document codes identifying specific information about the applicant data submitted, and written comments. The written messages provide additional information for the applicant to follow. The federal verification message for the student reads: "Your FAFSA has been selected for a review process called verification. Your school has the authority to request copies of certain financial documents from you and your parent(s)." The verification activity will initially compare applicant data for accuracy and completeness and continue to resolve conflicting information. In this process Carnegie Mellon requires verification of the following items:

For all applicants:

- Household size
- Number in college

For non-tax filers:

- Income earned from work

For tax filers:

- Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)
- U.S. income tax paid
- Income earned from work
- Education tax credits (American Opportunity Tax Credit and Lifetime Learning Tax Credit)
- Other untaxed income reported on tax return, for example: untaxed portions of Individual Retirement Account (IRA) distributions, untaxed portions of pensions, IRA deductions and payments, tax-exempt interest income

To complete the verification process acceptable documentation may include IRS Tax Transcripts, IRS Tax Forms (1040, 1040-SR, 1040-NR, and requested tax schedules), W-2's and the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE. To resolve discrepancies in reported information students may be required to submit additional documentation.

Verification results that require changes to the applicant information and subsequent changes to the student's financial aid package will be made prior to final disbursement of federal funds. For all students eligible for subsidized Title IV aid the university will make appropriate changes to the student information electronically through the Department of Education's CPS to ensure each student has a correct valid ISIR. The student will be notified of this adjustment through a revised financial aid award letter.

If the verification results do not justify aid already disbursed, the student is responsible for repaying all aid for which they are not eligible. Failure to meet the repayment obligation will result in the student being referred by Carnegie Mellon to the U.S. Department of Education.

Verification results that reveal possible fraud or criminal misconduct in connection with the financial aid application or verification processes will result in the matter being referred by Carnegie Mellon to the Office of the Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Education for investigation. In the event that individual circumstances and unusual situations are not addressed or defined through standard verification procedures, additional review is necessary. These cases must be sufficiently documented and may be processed in accordance with regulations as defined in Professional Judgment and Dependency Overrides Statute: HEA Sec.479A(a)(7) and Sec. 480 (d)(7).

Federal Title IV Funds Disbursements

Carnegie Mellon completes federal verification for selected applicants as a requirement of completing a student's financial aid application. Federal Title IV funds will not be disbursed until federal verification is completed. In some instances the institution can make an interim disbursement of funds if it has no reason to believe that the application information is inaccurate. If the institution makes an interim disbursement, the verification process must be completed prior to the disbursement of any additional funds. In all instances the institution is liable for an interim disbursement if verification identifies an overpayment or the student fails to complete verification.

Contact

Questions regarding this policy or its intent should be directed to the Student Financial Aid Office at 412- 268-1353.

Section 34: Return to Title IV Funds Policy and Procedural Statement (effective 7.1.2021)

Policy Reason

The U. S. Department of Education requires that the university determine the amount of Federal Title IV aid earned by a student who withdraws or fails to complete the period of enrollment. The university *must determine the earned and unearned portions of Title IV aid as of the date the student ceased attendance* based on the amount of time the student has spent in attendance. Unless the student meets one of the exemptions below in items 1 – 4, up through the 60% point in the period of enrollment, a pro rata schedule is used to determine the amount of Title IV funds the student has earned at the time of withdrawal. After the 60% point in the period of enrollment a student has earned 100% of the Title IV funds they were scheduled to receive. For a student who withdraws after the 60% point-in time, there are no unearned funds.

Effective July 1, 2021, there are four ways in which a student enrolled in a program delivered in modules** is exempt from the normal rules for return of Title IV funds (R2T4) mentioned above, and thus is not considered to be a withdrawal. Even though a student may meet one of the exemptions for R2T4, a student's cost of attendance and

financial aid may need to be reduced if the student does not attend all periods of enrollment for which Title IV aid has been determined. The 4 exemptions are:

1. If the student has completed all requirements for graduation within the payment period or period of enrollment;
2. If the student successfully completes Title IV-eligible coursework in one module or a combination of modules that equals 49% or more of the number of countable days** in the payment period or period of enrollment; or
3. If the student successfully completes Title IV-eligible coursework equal to or greater than what the school considers to be half-time enrollment (18 units) for the payment period or period of enrollment.
4. If a student who has dropped all classes except for classes in a future module within the semester has provided written confirmation to the school of their intention to return within 45 days within the same semester. Pre-registration does not constitute written confirmation.

*A student is considered to be enrolled in a program delivered in modules in any semester in which the student is enrolled in any class that does not span the entire semester.

**Countable days for calculating the 49% exemption include the first day of classes up to and including the last day of classes in the student's individual enrollment period (semester or mini), including days between modules and excluding breaks of 5 or more days.

All courses for which the student is registered AND courses for which the student has begun attendance are considered when determining the 49% exemption, even those courses that have been dropped. Federal regulations can be found at: Federal Student Aid Handbook, Volume 5 Chapter 1 Withdrawals and the Return of Title IV Funds; 34 CFR 668.22

At Carnegie Mellon, Title IV funds are awarded to a student under the assumption that the student will attend school for the entire period for which the assistance is awarded. When a student withdraws, the student may no longer be eligible for the full amount of Title IV funds that the student was originally scheduled to receive.

If a recipient of Title IV grant or loan funds withdraws from a school after beginning attendance, the amount of Title IV grant or loan assistance earned by the student must be determined. Additionally, if a recipient of Title IV grant or loan funds who is enrolled in a program delivered in modules does not attend all scheduled modules or withdraws from a module, the school must determine whether the student is considered to be a Title IV withdrawal and must determine the amount of Title IV grant or loan assistance earned by the student. If the amount disbursed to the student is greater than the amount the student earned, the unearned funds must be returned. If the amount disbursed to the student is less than the amount the student earned, and for which the

student is otherwise eligible, the student is eligible to receive a Post-withdrawal disbursement of the earned aid that was not received.

Carnegie Mellon determines the Withdrawal Date and Date of Determination to complete the return of funds calculation. A student's withdrawal date and date of determination varies depending on the type of withdrawal. When a student provides official notification to Carnegie Mellon through the Student Leave of Absence and Withdrawal Process, the withdrawal is defined as an official withdrawal. When the student does not complete the Student Leave of Absence and Withdrawal Process and no official notification is provided by the student, it is considered an unofficial withdrawal.

Leave of Absence/Withdrawal Process

A student may leave Carnegie Mellon by either taking an academic leave of absence (leaving the university temporarily with the firm and stated intention of returning) or by withdrawing from the university (leaving the university with no intention of returning). In accordance with the provisions of CFR 668.22, regardless of the reason for taking an academic leave of absence, both academic leaves and withdrawals at Carnegie Mellon University are considered withdrawals for Title IV purposes. That is, the student begins any applicable grace period for loan repayment as of the date of the academic leave or withdrawal, regardless of the reason for leaving school or the intention to return. Students choosing to take an academic leave of absence should first contact their academic advisor to discuss their plans while on leave and to work out any conditions that may be necessary for a smooth return to Carnegie Mellon. A student deciding to leave the university should take the following steps:

- Complete a Leave of Absence or Withdrawal Form.
- The form must include all necessary signatures or the process will not be completed.
- Return the completed form to the University Registrar's Office, 5000 Forbes Ave., Warner Hall A12, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

Determination of Withdrawal Date

Official Withdrawals (Notification Provided by the Student)

Those withdrawals defined as official are processed in accordance with federal regulations. The Office of the Registrar provides information that identifies which students have processed a Student Leave of Absence and Withdrawal Form for each semester. This information includes the Date of Withdrawal, the Date of Determination, Withdrawal/Leave Status (LA, LS, & W2) and the semester of attendance. This information is maintained in the student's academic file and in the university's Student Information System. For students who notify the university of their intent to withdraw or take a leave of absence, the official date of withdrawal or leave of absence is the earliest of:

- Date the student began the withdrawal or leave of absence process;
- Date the student notified his or her home department;

- Date the student notified the associate dean of his or her college; or
- Date the student notified the dean of students.

Unofficial Withdrawal (No Official Notification Provided by the Student)

For a student who withdraws without providing notification to Carnegie Mellon, the institution determines the withdrawal date using defined criteria. This category of withdrawals includes students that drop out and students that do not earn a passing grade.

To identify the unofficial withdrawals the Registrar develops a preliminary list of students that did not complete the semester by reviewing the final student grade reports. The list includes all students with:

- a) semester units carried,
- b) 0 semester units passed,
- c) 0 quality points earned, and
- d) 0.0 QPA.

The Registrar contacts the academic divisions about each student to determine if the student actually completed the semester and earned the grades (0.0) or failed to complete the semester and did not notify the university of their status. For students who do not notify the university of their intent to withdraw or take a leave of absence, the official date of withdrawal or leave of absence is:

- The midpoint of the semester or;
- The last date the student attended an academically-related activity such as an exam, tutorial or study group, or the last day a student turned in a class assignment.

Date of Determination that the Student Withdrew

Carnegie Mellon is not required to take attendance and the Date of Determination that a student withdrew varies depending upon the type of withdrawal:

Official or Unofficial

1. For withdrawals where the student provided Official Notification the Date of Determination is:
 - a. The student's withdrawal date,
 - b. or the date of notification, whichever is later.
2. For withdrawals where the student did not provide Official Notification the Date of Determination is:
 - a. The date the institution becomes aware the student has ceased attendance.

b. For a student who withdraws without providing notification to the institution, the institution must determine the withdrawal date no later than 30 days after the end of the enrollment period.

Calculation of Earned Title IV Assistance

The withdrawal date is used to determine the point in time that the student is considered to have withdrawn so the percentage of the period of enrollment completed by the student can be determined. The percentage of Title IV aid earned is equal to the percentage of the period of enrollment completed. Unless a student who is considered to have withdrawn meets one of the 4 exemptions listed above, the amount of Title IV federal aid earned by the student is determined on a pro-rata basis up to the end of 60% of the semester. For example, if the student completed 30% of a term, 30% of the aid originally scheduled to be received would have been earned. Once a student has completed more than 60% of a term, all awarded aid (100%) has been earned. The percentage of federal aid earned and the order in which the unearned aid is returned are defined by federal regulatory requirements.

The calculation of earned Title IV funds includes the following grant and loan funds if they were disbursed or could have been disbursed to the student for the period of enrollment for which the Return calculation is being performed:

- Pell Grant
- Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant
- TEACH Grant (not available at Carnegie Mellon)
- FSEOG Grant
- Federal Direct Loan

Institutional Charges

Institutional charges are used to determine the portion of unearned Title IV aid that the school is responsible for returning. Carnegie Mellon ensures that all charges for tuition, fees, living expenses, as well as all other applicable institutional charges are included in the return calculation. Institutional charges do not affect the amount of Title IV aid that a student earns when they withdraw. The institutional charges used in the calculation usually are the charges that were initially assessed the student for the period of enrollment. Initial charges are only adjusted by those changes the institution made prior to the student's withdrawal (for example, for a change in enrollment status unrelated to the withdrawal). If, after a student withdraws, the institution changes the amount of institutional charges it is assessing a student, or decides to eliminate all institutional charges, those changes affect neither the charges nor aid earned in the calculation.

Return of Unearned Funds to Title IV

If the total amount of Title IV grant and/or loan assistance that was earned as of the withdrawal date is less than the amount that was disbursed to the student, the difference between the two amounts will be returned to the Title IV program(s) and no

further disbursements will be made. If a student has received excess funds, the College must return a portion of the excess equal to the lesser of the student's institutional charges multiplied by the unearned percentage of funds, or the entire amount of the excess funds. The funds will be returned in the order below as prescribed by federal regulations, within 45 days from the date of determination that a student withdrew.

- Unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loans
- Subsidized Federal Stafford Loans
- Federal PLUS loans
- Federal Pell Grants
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG)

Post-Withdrawal Disbursements

If the total amounts of the Title IV grant and/or loan assistance earned as of the withdrawal date is more than the amount that was disbursed to the student, the difference between the two amounts will be treated as a post-withdrawal disbursement. In the event that there are outstanding charges on the student's account, Carnegie Mellon will credit the student's account for all or part of the amount of the post-withdrawal disbursement up to the amount of the allowable charges. Any amount of a post-withdrawal disbursement that is not credited to a student's account will be offered to the student within 30 days of the date that the institution determined that the student withdrew. Upon receipt of a timely response from the student, the College will disburse the funds within 90 days of the date of determination of the student's withdrawal date.

Contact

Questions regarding this policy or its intent should be directed to the Student Financial Aid Office at 412-268-1353.

Section 35: Carnegie Mellon Ethics Hotline

The health, safety and well-being of the university community are top priorities at Carnegie Mellon University. CMU provides a hotline that all members of the university community should use to confidentially report suspected unethical activity relating to financial matters, academic and student life, human relations, health and campus safety or research. Students, faculty and staff can anonymously file a report by calling 877-700-7050 or visiting www.reportit.net (user name: tartans; password: plaid). All submissions will be reported to appropriate university personnel. The hotline is NOT an emergency service. For emergencies, call University Police at 412-268-2323.

Section 36: Statement of Assurance

Carnegie Mellon University does not discriminate in admission, employment, or administration of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap or disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, creed, ancestry, belief, veteran status, or genetic information. Furthermore, Carnegie Mellon University does not discriminate and is required not to discriminate in violation of federal, state, or local laws or executive orders.

Inquiries concerning the application of and compliance with this statement should be directed to the Office for Institutional Equity and Title IX, Carnegie Mellon University, 5000 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213, telephone 412-268-7125.

Obtain general information about Carnegie Mellon University by calling 412-268-2000.

