



Office of Financial Aid

**SCHOOL of SOCIAL WORK
2020-2021 ACADEMIC YEAR
STUDENT FINANCIAL AID CHECKLIST**

STEPS TO TAKE ONCE ACCEPTED FOR ADMISSION

- 1. Learn about the financial aid application steps and deadlines:**
Review our website: <https://financialaid.tulane.edu/apply> for important information; especially on how to apply for Federal Aid.
- 2. Complete the 2020-2021 FAFSA to apply for federal student aid resources:**
Visit <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/> to complete the 2020-2021 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Be sure to list Tulane's federal school code of **002029**. (NOTE: You will be an independent student for U.S. Department of Education aid consideration, and as such, you are not required to provide parental data.) Please note that before Tulane Financial Aid starts the processing of your financial aid application, you must have been accepted for admission at Tulane. You may complete a FAFSA prior to being admitted, but we wait until you're admitted before we will review.
- 3. Complete Tulane's "2020-2021 School of Social Work Addendum":**
You are encouraged to provide additional information for on the 2020-2021 School of Social Work Addendum which will assist in the accuracy of your award. The on-line form is available on our website: <https://financialaid.tulane.edu/forms>
- 4. Be on the lookout for an e-mail providing your Tulane Login and Password to access Tulane's secure Gibson on-line portal:**
Gibson is Tulane's secure portal to on-line services at Tulane University. After you have been accepted by the Admissions Office, you will receive an e-mail with you Gibson login and password (PIN) credentials. You are then able to log in and navigate to the Financial Aid section to review that status of your aid application and determine if any requirements are listed on your "To Do" list.
- 5. Input your Social Security Number into Gibson Online:**
Tulane's Gibson provides a secure portal to online services at Tulane University. AFTER you have been accepted for Admissions, you can log-in to Tulane's Gibson portal and when prompted, input your Social Security Number (SSN) in a safe and secure manner. If you are not prompted to input your SSN, that means that Tulane already has your SSN on record.
- 6. Wait for the Office of Financial Aid to extend an official financial aid award offer:**
The typical timeframe for an awarding process to be completed is approximately 7 to 10 business days from the date your FAFSA is successfully imported into Tulane's records system. Delays occur until we have a valid Social Security Number on file AND you are admitted to Tulane. Occasionally, additional time is needed to determine an award if you were selected for federal verification or if your FAFSA cites that additional documentation is required. Please make sure that your personal information that you used in the admission process matches your FAFSA information.

____7. **Review your financial aid award online and accept, reduce or decline it:**

Once Tulane completes the review of your financial aid application materials, you will receive an e-mail notification inviting you to log-in to the Tulane Gibson portal to view the details and messages concerning your award. You will be able to **accept, decline, or reduce** specific components of your award offer. **It may be in your best interest to NOT accept all the loan funds that have been offered. You should establish a budget of your anticipated academic year expenses prior to determining the amount of student loans you intend to borrow (accept). Always reduce your highest cost loans first (such as the Federal Direct Graduate PLUS loan).**

STEPS TO TAKE AFTER CONFIRMING THAT YOU WILL ATTEND

____8. **Complete necessary federal loan “entrance” requirements, if applicable:**

FIRST TIME BORROWERS in the Federal Direct Unsubsidized loan program AND/OR in the Federal Direct Graduate PLUS loan program are required to complete Graduate and Professional loan entrance counseling. Complete this requirement online at the following U.S. Department of Education web site: <https://studentloans.gov/>.

____8. **Complete necessary loan Master Promissory Notes, if applicable:**

If you will be a FIRST TIME BORROWER in the Federal Direct Loan program OR in the Federal Direct Graduate PLUS loan program, then for **EACH** type of loan, the Department of Education must have a completed Master Promissory Note (MPN) on file. If you are a first time borrower in the Federal Direct loan program, then you must complete **Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan** and **Federal Graduate PLUS MPNs** at the following web site: <https://studentloans.gov/>.

____9. **Sign up for direct deposit via the Tulane Billing section of Gibson Online:**

To assure efficient delivery of financial aid funds for personal expenses, sign up for Tulane’s direct deposit processing via the Billing (Accounts Receivable) section of Gibson Online.

____10. **Re-visit the Tulane Billing section of Gibson Online:**

After classes begin, if you see that your level of aid that was disbursed for the enrolled term has exceeded your billed charges, creating excess for you to use towards your living expenses, then turn to the Billing (Accounts Receivable) section of Gibson Online to request your refund of the excess amount.

If you have any questions along the way, please do not hesitate to contact the Tulane University Financial Aid Office. Each Tulane student is assigned a dedicated professional financial aid counselor who can answer your questions concerning the aid application process and the types of aid available. We look forward to assisting you in financing your Tulane graduate degree through excellent customer service and professional teamwork.