

Enrollment Services Glossary

Scholarships & Financial Aid

- **Dependent status**-A student who does not meet any of the criteria for an independent student.
- **Independent Status**-An independent student is at least 24 years old, married, a graduate/professional student, a veteran, a member of the armed forces, an orphan, a ward of the court, someone with legal dependents (not a spouse), an emancipated minor, or someone who is or at risk of being homeless
- **Alternative (Private) Loan**-Alternative loans are credit-based consumer loans that can be used for any educational related purpose. Most loans require that the applicant must have established credit history to be approve
- **Expected Family Contribution (EFC)**-an index number used to determine your eligibility for federal student financial aid. This number results from the financial information you provide in your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form. It's reported to you on your Student Aid Report (SAR).
- **Disbursement**- Financial aid award, is moved from pending status to your balance due
- **FAFSA**- Before each year of college, apply for federal grants, work-study, and loans with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form. Your college uses your FAFSA data to determine your federal aid eligibility.
- **TAFSA**- The Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA) is used to collect information to help determine eligibility for state financial aid programs that are administered by institutions of higher education in the state of Texas. Students that are classified as a Texas resident who cannot apply for federal financial aid are encouraged to apply.
- **Financial Aid Package**- Your financial aid package is likely to include funds from the Federal Student Aid (FSA) programs. Note that not all colleges participate in all FSA programs.
- **Grant**- A grant is a monetary gift for people pursuing higher education. It is often based on financial need and does not need to be repaid
- **Entrance Counseling**- Entrance counseling explains your rights and the obligations you agree to meet as a condition of accepting a Direct Loan
- **Interest**- Interest is a loan expense charged for the use of borrowed money. Interest is paid by the borrower to a lender. The expense is calculated as a percentage of the unpaid principal amount of the loan.
- **Loan interest Rate**- For undergraduate students, the interest rate for Direct Subsidized Loans and Direct Unsubsidized Loans is 3.73%. For graduate or professional students, the interest rate for Direct Unsubsidized loans is 5.28%
- **Master Promissory Note**- an MPN is a legal document that contains the Borrower's Rights and Responsibilities and Terms and Conditions for repayment. Direct PLUS and Direct Subsidized / Unsubsidized loans have different MPNs.
- **Need-based Aid**- Need-based aid is financial aid that you can receive if you have financial need and meet other eligibility criteria. You can't receive more need-based aid than the amount of your financial need.
- **SAP (satisfactory academic progress)**- Satisfactory academic progress is the process a school uses to determine if a student is meeting all of their educational requirements and is on target to graduate on time with a degree or certificate. Academic progress is monitored annually and evaluated using both qualitative (grade point average) and quantitative (completion rate and maximum timeframe) requirements
- **Student Aid Report (SAR)**- After you submit your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form, you'll get a Student Aid Report (SAR) that summarizes the information you provided on your FAFSA form.
- **Tax Return Transcript**- A tax return transcript is the formatted record of a tax return filed with the IRS. The IRS makes tax return transcripts available to individuals that request it free of charge.
- **Verification Selection**- Verification is a process that the U.S. Department of Education uses to make sure that the information reported on the FAFSA is accurate. Some FAFSA applications are selected because of inconsistent information, and others are chosen randomly
- **Work Study**- Federal Work-Study provides part-time jobs for undergraduate and graduate students with financial need, allowing them to earn money to help pay education expenses

STUDENT BUSINESS SERVICES

- **Billing statement**- A document available to students that provides a detailed listing of all charges and credits with the university
- **Refunds**- A overpayment check a student receives for any funds remaining on student account after aid has been disbursed and all balances have been resolved
- **Bank Mobile**- BankMobile is a division of Customers Bank that provides refund management services to colleges and universities.
- **Payment Plan**- In accordance with the Texas Education Code, the University offers payment plans to students for the payment of tuition and fees Payment plans allow eligible students to secure enrollment subject to terms and conditions of the payment plan agreement
- **Tuition Waiver**-A Tuition Waiver reduces the amount the college charges you. The waiver may eliminate the cost of tuition for a designated number of credit hours.
- **Hazelwood**- The Hazelwood Act is a benefit that provides qualified veterans, their spouses, and dependent children with an exemption that can cover up to 150 credit hours of eligible tuition and fees at Texas public institutions

OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY REGISTRAR

- **Add**- When you add a course to your class schedule, it means that you are registering for that course. If you decide to not take the courses you enroll in, you're responsible for dropping yourself from those courses to avoid owing any fees to the university.
- **Drop**- is a function that allows students to remove themselves from a class in their student account. To drop a course means a student will maintain some enrollment for the academic semester.
- **Mini Session/Winter**- Winter Mini Session classes are classes that are being taught during the Winter Holiday Break.
- **6 W's**- Texas Senate Bill no. 1231 mandates that a student who enrolls in a Texas public institution as a first-time freshman in fall 2007 or later, not be allowed to withdraw from more than six courses over his or her entire undergraduate career including all courses taken at any Texas public institution of higher education.
- **Term Withdrawal**- Term withdrawal means the student is dropping all courses in all sessions of the term and withdrawing from the university for the current term.
- **Official Reporting Day (ORD)**- The 12th class day, or ORD, represents a snapshot at that point in time whereas the student data base reflects the data at the current point in time, reflecting all changes, additions and deletions to the database.
- **Enrollment Appointment**- A specific day and time that you are able to register for classes in an upcoming term. Registration times will differ based on a student's classification
- **Residency**- The University of Houston is a state university, meaning Texas residents and non-residents have different tuition rates. Residents of the state of Texas will be billed in-state tuition and non-residents will be billed out-of-state tuition.
- **Bacterial Meningitis Immunization**- all entering students under the age of 22 provide must a certificate signed by a health care provider or an official immunization record verifying that a student has been vaccinated against bacterial meningitis, or has received a booster during the five years prior to registration