

Master's of Human Relations/LPC 2006-2007 Financial Aid Fact Sheet

The Office of Financial Aid Services is committed to assisting eligible students obtain funds to help defray the costs of their education. This fact sheet will provide information about financial aid for the degree-seeking MHR student and information about private loans for the LPC (Licensed Professional Counselor) student.

NOTE: Students admitted to the MHR program through Advanced Programs must obtain the Financial Aid Advanced Programs Packet, available from this office or Advanced Programs for specific information and forms.

General Aid Opportunities For Graduate Students

Graduate students are encouraged to pursue all outside opportunities for financial assistance and scholarships to help supplement their own resources when paying for college. Students may visit our website at www.financialaid.ou.edu for additional information about other resources. Students can search for OU scholarships, link to national scholarship searches, and learn about other aid opportunities. Students should also explore other options such as employee tuition reimbursement plans through their employers, veteran educational benefits, community resources, and scholarships and/or assistantships that may be offered through their department.

Important Note

Regularly admitted students pursuing the **MHR degree** may apply for federal, state and institutional financial aid programs for up to 36 credit hours or degree completion, whichever comes first. Visit our website for more information about types of programs and the application process.

Students pursuing the **Licensed Professional Counselor Certification** (LPC) may pursue outside resources (listed above) or private loans. Refer to the Private Loan Fact Sheet for more information. Federal aid regulations prohibit funding students who are pursuing licensure/certification in this program. Only degree-seeking students may receive federal aid. Students seeking private loans for LPC coursework are strongly encouraged to borrow loans from a lender that does **NOT** require school certification. Private loan requirements vary, so be sure you read their information carefully.

Applying For Financial Aid For The MHR Program

To file your FAFSA electronically, visit our home page at www.financialaid.ou.edu for application information. Students starting in the summer session must file the prior year FAFSA application. For example, Summer 2006 aid applications will require the 2005-2006 FAFSA application. For the Summer 2007 semester students must have on file a 2006-2007 FAFSA. Specific deadlines apply for summer semesters. Failure to use the appropriate applications will result in being ineligible for aid. Contact our office if you have any questions.

Recommended Deadlines for all students applying for aid or private loans through OU Financial Aid Office

To apply for 2006-2007 financial aid, students are urged to apply by the following recommended deadlines.

- January 1, 2006 Apply as soon after this date for consideration for all aid programs.
- March 1, 2006 The recommended filing date for priority application processing.
- June 1, 2006 File must be complete at Financial Aid Services to be eligible for early disbursement of Fall 2006 funds.
- November 1, 2006 File must be complete at Financial Aid Services to be eligible for early disbursement of Spring 2007 funds.
- April 1, 2007 The application deadline for Summer 2007 is on or about April 1.
Students will be contacted via email in February 2007 with summer aid instructions.

Admission Status

- Students must have obtained clear admission into the MHR degree program to ensure financial aid can be processed. We recommend that **admission** to the MHR program by new MHR financial aid applicants be completed **by** our recommended financial aid application deadlines. This admit is considered a **“Regular”** admit for financial aid purposes.
- Students admitted to the University of Oklahoma in an **“Unclassified”** status are normally **ineligible** to receive financial aid because they are not classified as seeking entry into a degree program.
- Students admitted to the University of Oklahoma in a **“Provisional”** status are normally **ineligible** to receive financial aid until they have met the terms of their original admission contract. Students in **“Deferred”** status are likewise **ineligible**.
- Students admitted to the University of Oklahoma in a **“Special”** status may only be eligible to receive aid if the courses they are enrolled in are necessary pre-requisites for admission to the MHR program. **Note:** this does **not** include coursework taken in an effort to raise your Grade Point Average (GPA) or coursework taken while preparing for Graduation Admission examinations (such as the GMAT or GRE). Students admitted as “Special” will be required to complete a “Special Student Certification Form” before their financial aid application is complete. Completing the “Special Student Certification Form” does not guarantee aid eligibility. Students admitted as “Special” with incomplete credentials will be ineligible for aid. Refer also to the Special or Unclassified Students Fact Sheet. Note: most students admitted as “Special” ultimately do not qualify for financial aid; therefore, look to outside resources or private loans.
- Aid **cannot** be processed retroactively for periods of ineligible status as unclassified, special, provisional, or deferred.
- Students finishing their bachelor's degrees and immediately entering the MHR program the following semester should contact FAS. Additional information may be required and specific deadlines may apply. **YOU SHOULD EXPECT FINANCIAL AID PROCESSING DELAYS IF YOU GRADUATE FROM YOUR UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE FROM OU IN MAY AND BEGIN SUMMER GRADUATE CLASSES IN JUNE.**

Enrollment Requirements

- All **MHR** students must maintain at least **five** credit hours of any MHR enrollment combination each Fall and Spring semester to qualify for a half-time Oklahoma Tuition Aid Grant (OTAG) and at least nine credit hours to qualify for a full-time OTAG. The OTAG is for Oklahoma residents only and additional requirements apply.
- All **MHR** students must be enrolled in at least **five** credit hours of coursework each Fall and Spring semester to be eligible for Stafford/Perkins loan disbursements. Coursework may be traditional enrollment or any combination of traditional and weekend coursework as long as enrollment in all coursework for a particular semester is posted on the OU Admissions and Records system **prior** to the time of disbursement. Summer enrollment requirements are noted on the Summer Financial Aid Application.
- Graduate Tuition Waivers may be applied only to Norman Main Campus coursework. Graduate Tuition Waivers may not be used towards payment of Special Programs or Advanced Programs classes.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

- Only degree-seeking students can receive financial aid. Degree-seeking students cannot receive aid while taking additional coursework beyond degree requirements for licensure or certification. Federal regulations prohibit funding students who are pursuing licensure or seeking certification in this program. Students admitted to the MHR program may receive aid through the semester in which they complete 36 credit hours. Students who do not complete the MHR program within the 36 hour limit should contact the Financial Aid Services Office for more information.

Warning

Failure to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress will cause you to be suspended from financial aid. Academic Progress Standards are strictly enforced and apply equally to traditional and non-traditional students. If you have any questions, please contact our office.

A Word About Borrowing Student Loans

Whether utilizing federal or private loan programs, you should always borrow conservatively. While education loans currently have very attractive interest rates, those can and will change. For some helpful information in managing your student loan debt contact your lender or check out the Loan Repayment Calculator at <http://www.finaid.org/calculators/> on the web to help you assess an appropriate level of debt for your career choice.