

Northwestern

UNDERGRADUATE FINANCIAL AID

No-Loan Pledge Scholarship Policies

- First-time undergraduate students who demonstrate the greatest institutional need, as reviewed on an annual basis, may qualify for a No-Loan Pledge Scholarship (“Pledge Scholarship”). Recipients must qualify at the time of admission.
- Students are eligible for institutional assistance for up to 12 quarters of enrollment whether or not institutional funding is received. Students *admitted to* the liberal arts and music, communication and engineering, engineering and music, or journalism and music five-year dual degree programs are eligible to receive aid for a maximum of 15 quarters. Students enrolled beyond their quarters of institutional eligibility may be offered loan assistance.
- Financial aid recipients must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) toward their degrees. Pledge scholarship recipients will receive need-based financial aid and, therefore, must meet this requirement. Students not making SAP may lose their Pledge Scholarship for the subsequent year.
- Pledge Scholarship recipients, like others on financial aid, are expected to work summers and save a portion of earnings for school-year expenses. Also, recipients will be expected to work during the academic year to cover some of their personal expenses. If a student is unable to save from summer or to work during the academic year, he/she may be offered the option to borrow.
- All students seeking need-based financial aid, including Pledge Scholarship recipients, must reapply for financial aid each year.
- If a family’s financial circumstances are relatively similar from year-to-year, a student can expect to see some increases in both financial aid expectations and eligibility each academic year. The cost of attendance generally increases as does the average parental contribution, summer work expectation, and work-study award. A student will likely see increases in the financial aid award—including the Pledge Scholarship and the Northwestern Scholarship as well.
- If a student’s parents are unable to contribute at the level outlined in the financial aid award letter or if a student requests assistance for an unusual expense (for example, health insurance coverage, computer purchase, etc.), the student has the option to appeal for a review. The student may be offered additional resources (including loans) as a result of an appeal.
- Students who choose to participate in the Study Abroad Program typically have to undertake additional loans to meet the higher than average cost. A Pledge Scholarship recipient who pursues a study abroad program may be offered a loan at that time.
- Because financial aid funding is limited for Summer Session, a Pledge Scholarship recipient who requests funds for summer may be offered a loan.

- Any outside scholarships students receive require an adjustment to their financial aid awards. For Pledge Scholarship recipients, the work-study expectation will be reduced first. If the outside scholarships exceed the amount of the work-study, the Financial Aid Office will, if allowable under the financial aid regulations, reduce the summer work expectation. In some cases the Pledge Scholarship will need to be adjusted.
- Students who want to borrow above the Pledge Scholarship must contact our office (in person, by mail, or e-mail) and make a specific request for assistance. Students may be asked to complete a waiver stating that they requested loan aid.
- Special circumstances will be reviewed on an individual basis. Students should contact a counselor in the Financial Aid Office to discuss any specific concerns.
- Students admitted to Northwestern as transfer students are not eligible for consideration for the Pledge Scholarship.
- The University reserves the right to make adjustments to these policies as circumstances dictate.