

OU helps students explore payment plans and financial aid options

A college education is among the most life-changing investments a person can make. It's a path to new discoveries, potential careers and countless opportunities.

Funding a college education can be challenging, but Oakland University leaders are reminding students that support is available in the form of grants, scholarships, loans, work-study opportunities and more.

With **registration for summer, fall and winter classes** now underway, check out these tips for managing the financial aspects of college while staying on track toward a degree.

- Enroll in an **OU Payment Plan** to pay your balance in installments.

"Payment plans are helpful because they allow students to pay their balance over time, and in more manageable portions," said Linda Switzer, director of Student Business Services. "Since introducing this option, we've seen positive results. In fact, payment plans contributed to over 2,000 more students being able to early-register this year as compared to last year. Students will be able to enroll in payment plans starting Monday, March 19, the day early-registration begins for summer, fall and winter classes."

- Contact the **Office of Student Financial Services** for help determining the types of aid available to you.

"The Student Financial Services office staff works with students and families to explore the various options available to help cover educational costs for students attending the Fall, Winter, and/or Summer terms," said Nancy Fetzer, associate director of Student Financial Services. "While scholarships and grants are the most desired forms of assistance, federal loans offer low interest rates, grace periods and flexible repayment options. Federal loans are a great resource to help OU students cover educational costs and cross the graduation finish line on time."

- File the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid** (FAFSA), even if you don't think you qualify for federal aid.

"It's important to file the FAFSA to be considered for OU, federal, and state financial assistance," Fetzer said. "By completing a FAFSA, you will be considered for grants, work-study opportunities and loans. Most students who apply for financial aid through the FAFSA qualify to receive at least an unsubsidized loan."

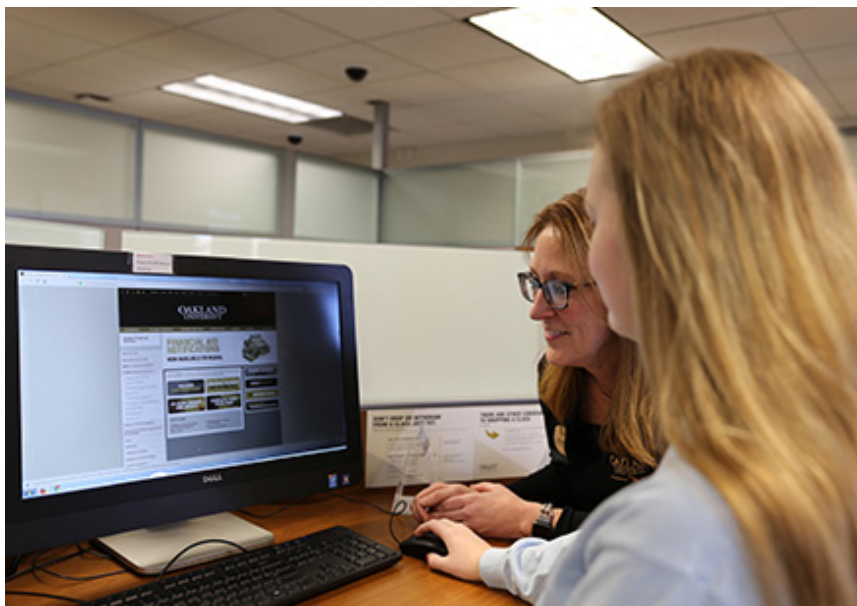
In addition, students are also encouraged to visit OU's **Financial Services website** to explore the different types of awards available.

Note to students attending in summer: Pell eligible students can be awarded an additional Pell grant in the summer if they attend at least time (six or more credits). Pell eligible students attending less than half-time in the summer can be awarded any amount remaining from their and/or winter Pell award.

For help or information, contact the Office of Student Financial Services at (248) 370-2550 or finservices@oakland.edu. Visit the Office at 1 North Foundation Hall



OU staff members are available to answer questions and provide information about payment plans, grants, scholarships, loans, work-study opportunities and more.



*Students can also visit **OU's Student Financial Services website** to learn more about financial aid and other resources*