

## □ SECTION XIII

### FINANCIAL AID AND TUITION POLICIES

#### General Policy Statement

While Alpert Medical School (AMS) tries to assist students with documented financial need, the primary responsibility for paying for one's medical education must rest with each student and his or her family. When the amount that a student and his or her family can contribute is not sufficient to meet all of the costs of attending medical school, financial aid is available from several sources. Actual awards depend on federal funding levels as well as on institutional resources, as determined annually in the medical cost of attendance approved by the University Corporation. Although graduate students are considered independent for most types of federal aid, the medical school does not recognize the status of the independent student in the awarding of institutional funds, regardless of the student's age, marital status, or number of years which he or she has been self-supporting. This policy ensures that institutional funds are allocated to students who have demonstrated limited family resources.

The basis for awards is financial need. Academic performance and class rank, however measured, are not factors in the amount or type of financial aid, provided that the student meets the academic requirements for continuation in the medical school. Exceptions to this policy are certain scholarships or prizes based on academic excellence by the expressed intent of the donor, such as clinical year scholarships for M.D./Ph.D. students. In accordance with federal laws and applicable regulations, Brown University does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, age, handicap, status as a veteran, sexual orientation, or national or ethnic origin in the awarding of financial assistance.

Students whose applications are complete by April 15 will receive award notifications in mid-May. First-year applicants may receive award notifications as early as April 1 if their files are complete by March 1. First-year applicants who submit their aid applications by the deadline date of April 15 will receive their award notifications by May 1.

#### Eligibility for Financial Aid

To be eligible for financial aid in the Medical School, a student must be enrolled at least half-time in a degree-granting program and must be making satisfactory progress toward a degree, as defined in Section V, Policies and Protocols on Academic Standing and Promotion.

Transfer students and students who have been formally authorized to devote more than four years to complete the M.D. degree are eligible for financial aid under the same conditions as other medical students. Institutional financial aid generally is not available for expenses related to enrollment in courses taken by away clerkships, even though transfer of academic credit may be authorized. International students who do not hold a permanent resident visa are not eligible for federal financial aid programs, although institutional funding is available to a limited number of students.

### **Determining Financial Need**

Financial need is defined as the difference between the annual cost of attendance and the financial resources expected to be available from the student (and spouse, if applicable) and his or her family to meet those expenses. A family's ability to contribute to a student's education is determined by a federally-approved needs analysis system called Federal Methodology. The purpose of this system is to assess family resources using a nationally uniform formula so that the criteria for the judgment of need do not vary among institutions. The analysis takes into account family income, assets, number of dependents, number of family members in college, and other relevant information.

The medical school uses the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) to apply Federal Methodology in assessing family resources. In addition, Alpert Medical School utilizes the Need Access Form to determine eligibility for institutional funding. The analyzed FAFSA and Need Access forms are then reviewed along with supporting documents before determining financial need.

Students are expected to contribute from their own assets and income toward their medical education. Students entering the third and fourth years are not expected to contribute from summer earnings unless a significant block of time is free from class or clerkship requirements.

### **Assessing Parental Resources**

Graduate and professional school students may wish to declare independence from their parents. Some have been self-supporting for years. While the medical school is sensitive to the desire of these students to become independent of their families, it is not in a position to transfer financial dependence from one's parents to Brown. Therefore, **parental information is required for all students applying for institutional funding (i.e., Alpert Medical School loans and scholarships) as well as many types of federal funding, regardless of the student's age, marital status, or number of years which he/she has been self-supporting.**

Parental information may be waived in exceptional circumstances. Students who have unusual family circumstances are advised to discuss their situation with the director of financial aid.

### **Assessing Student (and Spouse) Resources**

Students are expected to pay for a portion of their educational expenses. That contribution depends on several factors which are described below:

Base Year vs. Academic Year Income: In determining student and spouse contributions, the Federal Methodology, uses base year data, or income data for the calendar year prior to the academic year for which financial aid is sought. For example, income earned in 2007 is considered base year data for the 2008-2009 award year. The analysis assumes a continuation of that income in the following calendar year. In many cases, that assumption will be wrong. If your income in 2008 will be substantially different from your 2007 income, please explain this change on the Brown Financial Aid Application. First- and second-year students should take special care to report large decreases in income from year 2007 to 2008.

Summer Earnings Expectation: First- and second-year students generally are expected to contribute \$1,500 from summer earnings toward their educational expenses. The summer earnings contribution is not waived for students who elect to take courses that are not required for admission to the medical school. Since third- and fourth-year students are enrolled year round, a summer earnings contribution is not expected unless a significant block of time is free from class or clerkship requirements.

Student's (and Spouse's) Assets: A contribution is expected from assets which the student and/or spouse own, including, but not limited to, savings, certain types of property, and investments. Please be aware that federal regulations require assets which are held in the student's social security number or his/her spouse's social security number to be considered a resource for the student's education.

### **How Student Budgets are Determined**

The cost of attendance is calculated annually based on survey feedback from enrolled students regarding their living expenses, market analysis of the cost of living in the Providence area, and University charges approved by the Brown Corporation. Student budgets reflect costs only for periods of enrollment and include tuition, fees, health insurance, medical and dental costs, books and supplies (including PDA's), national board fees, transportation expenses, and reasonable personal and living expenses. Living expenses may vary depending on whether the student is living in an apartment or at home with his or her parents. Federal regulations do not permit student budgets to include expenses related to residency interviews, the cost of purchasing an automobile or consumer debt. Standard budgets for the 2008-2009 year are listed on the financial aid website at <http://med.brown.edu/financialaid/cost/>. The cost of attendance is finalized in April and typically increases by 4 - 5% each year. An updated Appendix A, with the actual budget for 2006-2007 will be included with your financial aid award notification.

### **Financial Aid Packages for Students Receiving Institutional Funding**

Once financial need has been determined, the Financial Aid Office constructs a "package" or combination of financial aid resources. The sources of aid are based upon program eligibility criteria, availability of funds and the level of financial need. Awards may consist of scholarship funds (*see Appendix C*), subsidized loans or unsubsidized loans.

The financial need of students who qualify for institutional funding is covered first with a fixed amount in institutional and federal loans, which is called the base loan component. The amount and composition of the base loan is determined annually based upon anticipated institutional resources and the projected aggregate need of financial aid applicants. The first portion of the base loan is the Federal Subsidized Stafford Loan of \$8,500. This loan has a fixed rate of 6.8% and the federal government pays the interest on this loan while the student is in school, so interest is not accruing during this period. The second component is the Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, which also has a fixed interest rate of 6.8%. Interest begins to accrue on this loan from the date that the funds are disbursed to the student's school account. The amount packaged in the Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loan varies by class year.

### **Financial Aid Packages for Students Receiving External Funding**

Students who do not qualify for institutional funding may borrow from several loan programs. The most common programs are the Federal Stafford Loans, and, if necessary, alternative loans such as the Federal Graduate PLUS Loan. Together, these loans provide sufficient funds to cover the full cost of attendance each year. Students who prefer to borrow from other alternative loan programs should be aware that creditworthiness is a factor in determining eligibility for these loans.

With the exception of the Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loan and the Federal Graduate PLUS Loan, most other alternative loans are potentially expensive options in terms of processing fees, interest charges which accrue from date of issuance, fluctuating interest rates, and frequency of interest capitalization. Although under certain conditions interest on student loans is now deductible, some families nonetheless find that borrowing a home equity loan (for which interest is fully tax deductible) is a better financing strategy. Applicants are encouraged to explore this and other financing options with their families and the financial aid staff before borrowing unsubsidized alternative student loans.

### **Financial Aid for M.D./Ph.D. Students**

During Years I and II of the MD program, MD/PhD students are eligible for financial aid on the same terms as other medical students. The base loan component for Years I and II does not include any Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loans, but instead is replaced by Alpert Medical School loans which have the benefit of interest subsidy. While enrolled in the PhD program, students receive fellowship or assistantship support including full tuition and fees and a stipend for twelve months per year for up to five years. The annual stipend for a first-year PhD student in 2008-2009 is \$26,000 dollars.

MD/PhD students who complete all experimental work needed for the thesis prior to re-entry into the third year of the Medical School receive a full tuition scholarship in the third year, and students who successfully defend their thesis prior to entry into the fourth year receive a full tuition scholarship for the final year of medical school.

Students who elect to start their research during the summer before the first year of medical studies receive a fellowship to do so. In addition, each student receives fellowship support for research conducted in subsequent summers.

Students who are neither U.S. citizens nor permanent U.S. residents are considered for institutional funding, typically a combination of institutional loans and scholarships. International students who are enrolled in the Program in Liberal Medical Education (PLME) should be aware that if they are admitted to the College without financial aid, they generally will not be eligible for aid during the medical school years outside of exceptional circumstances. Please refer to the financial aid website at <http://med.brown.edu/financialaid/> for information about application procedures and requirements.

### **Financial Aid for International Students**

#### **Outside Awards**

Students are strongly encouraged to seek scholarships and loans from private sources, including county medical societies, foundations, unions, fraternal or professional organizations. Please refer to the financial aid website (<http://med.brown.edu/financialaid/>) for more information.

Recipients of private loans and/or scholarships are obligated to provide the Office of Financial Aid with written confirmation of the annual award from the outside agency. Outside awards first reduce the student's higher cost loans (e.g., Federal Graduate PLUS or Federal Unsubsidized Stafford loans). Awards that exceed the amount borrowed through these loans then reduce the Federal Subsidized Stafford Loan, and then the Alpert Medical School loans and scholarship.

### **Appeal of Financial Aid Decisions**

A medical student who feels that his/her application for financial aid has not been given full consideration should first discuss the matter with the director of financial aid. If, after discussing the matter with the financial aid staff, the student does not feel the award is appropriate under the University guidelines, he/she may appeal to the Associate Dean for Medical Education that has been designated by the Dean of Medicine and biological sciences for supervision of the Office of Financial Aid. The Associate Dean will consult the Financial Aid Policy Committee. All the matters pertaining to financial aid are confidential, and all decisions made by the Financial Aid Policy Committee are final.

### **Emergency Loans**

Short-term, interest-free loans are available to students in the medical school through the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid. Funding for these loans is provided by the BioMed Business Office. Financial Services and loans are repaid to the BioMed Business Office within three months from the date of issuance. There are no fees associated with these loans. Since this is a small revolving loan fund, prompt repayment is expected. Failure to repay or to make satisfactory arrangements for repayment will result in the withholding of official correspondence by the school on behalf of the student, withholding transcripts and withholding of the diploma, if necessary.

The complete Financial Aid Information Guide and Application Forms, 2006-2008-2007-2009 can be found at the BMS AMS website: <http://med.brown.edu/financialaid/><http://bms.brown.edu/financialaid/>.

## **TUITION POLICIES**

### **Definitions**

*Annual tuition*—such amount as is fixed by the Corporation of the University for the medical school for a given academic year. The annual charge does not cover tuition for courses taken in the summer preceding the first year of medical school or between the first and second years of medical school.

*Tuition Unit*—one-twelfth of the annual tuition.

*Full-time enrollment*—registration for all courses/rotations in the relevant portion of the medical curriculum for that semester, or as defined by the Associate Dean for Medical Education.

*Part-time enrollment*—registration for less than the requirement for that semester, or as defined by the Associate Dean for Medical Education.

Adjustment of annual tuition charges will be made for any student in the medical school who withdraws officially or who is dismissed for academic reasons, subject to the following provisions:

## Years 1 and 2:

1. A student who leaves the medical school prior to the beginning of the semester shall not be charged tuition for the semester.
2. A student who leaves the medical school during either Semester I or II shall be eligible for a refund of the normal charge for that semester (50% of the annual charge for the medical school) during the first five weeks only as follows:

First two weeks . . . . .	.80% refund
Third week . . . . .	.60% refund
Fourth week . . . . .	.40% refund
Fifth week . . . . .	.20% refund

## Years 3 and 4:

1. The academic program for the third and fourth year of the medical school is divided into four clerkship periods of approximately thirteen weeks each.
2. A student who leaves the medical school during or at the end of the first clerkship period shall be refunded 75% of the total annual charge.
3. A student who leaves the medical school during or at the end of the second clerkship shall be refunded 50% of the total annual charge.
4. A student who leaves the medical school during or at the end of the third clerkship shall be refunded 25% of the annual charge.
5. No refund shall be made to a student who leaves the medical school during or at the end of the fourth clerkship period.

Students who have received no credit grades in coursework and must repeat the course are responsible for additional tuition payments during the academic period in which the course is repeated, unless the course is an add-on to a regular academic load, in which case no additional tuition is charged. If the course is a first or second year course, tuition is calculated on a per course basis. If the course is a clerkship, the tuition is calculated on a quarterly basis (e.g. 12 week clerkship equals one quarter; 6 week clerkship equals one eighth).

Tuition is prorated under the reduced load option. Thus, students pay the same tuition over the extended study period that they would have paid over two years, taking into account any effect of inflation. Additional tuition is charged for courses taken beyond the traditional course load or for repetition of courses previously failed. Tuition is charged on a per credit basis.

### Delinquent Student Accounts

Brown University requires payment of tuition and fees by August 1 for first semester obligations and by January 1 for second semester obligations. Students who fail to make payment in full by these deadlines will be assessed a late payment charge of 1.5% per month (an annual rate of 18%) on any unpaid balances. In addition, outstanding balances greater than \$1,000 will prevent

any student from pre-registering for any subsequent semester and may jeopardize their continued enrollment with the University.

Accounts which are not paid in full (except those on the monthly payment plan) will be referred to the University Student Account Committee for review. The committee will then meet with a representative designated by the Dean of Medicine shortly thereafter to review the student's account. The Committee's action may include cancellation of eligibility for enrollment and/or dismissal. No diploma, certificate, transcript, letter of honorable dismissal, or recommendation will be issued to any student or former student, unless all accounts are satisfactorily settled.

The Dean's designate on the University Student Account Committee will be the Associate Dean for Medical Education, or an alternate person designated by the Dean of Medicine who is familiar with the student's academic and personal situation and with the authority to withdraw the student from the University.