

Computers

A laptop computer with designated software is required as part of the technology enhanced curriculum in the School of Medicine. Specifications are available on the School of Medicine web site and are updated as necessary.

Refund Policy

1. Policy

The University will refund a part of academic fees in certain cases:

- a. Changes in a student's status, which may require a refund.
 - i. Change in a full-time student's schedule, which results in reclassification to part-time status
 - ii. Change in a part-time student's schedule, which results in fewer credit hours.
- b. Situations, which may require a refund.
 - i. Course or courses dropped
 - ii. Withdrawal from the University
 - iii. Cancellation of a class by the University

2. Refund Requests

All requests for refunds must be received during the academic year for which the fees were paid. The academic year begins with the fall term and ends with the last summer session (Summer II). Refunds may be requested at any time during the academic year in which the applicable term occurs.

3. Determining the Refundable Portion Procedure

The refund is for the portion of the tuition, fees, room, board, and other charges assessed the student under the control of the University equal to the portion of the period of enrollment for which the student has been charged that remains on the withdrawal date, less any unpaid amount of a schedule cash payment for the period of enrollment for which the student has been charged.

4. Withdrawal Refund Policies

Standard Refund Policy For Withdrawal From The University

100% refund of the charges if the student's **Official Withdrawal Calculation** is by the first week of classes of a sixteen-week session
TITLE IV Funds

Refunds Policy For Students Who Have Received TITLE IV Funds And Withdraw From The University

Federal financial aid funds are awarded with the expectation that students will complete the entire period of enrollment. Students "earn" a percentage of the funds that are disbursed with each day of class attendance. When a student who has received federal aid funds (Title IV Funds) leaves school before the end of the semester or period of enrollment, federal regulations require the University of South Carolina to calculate the percentage and amount of "unearned" financial aid funds that must be returned. Once a student has completed more than 60% of the enrollment period, they are considered to have earned all funding received. This calculation may have the effect of requiring the student who withdraws before this time frame to repay funds that have already been disbursed to the student or credited towards their current account for tuition, fees, housing and/or meals. Students are encouraged to meet with a counselor in the Office of Student Affairs, or the appropriate office on their campus, prior to making the decision to withdraw from school.
TITLE IV Refund Distribution

For fully withdrawn students receiving federal and/or state funds, the refund will be governed by the current Federal Title IV refund policy. The Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships determines the amount of the refund that is distributed back to Title IV, HEA Programs or other Financial Aid sources. For students and their

parents who have received student loans or other forms of financial aid, refunds will be returned in the order prescribed by federal regulations. The institution must return the refund to the financial aid program other than College Work Study, up to the amount of assistance that the student received from those programs. Refunds are to be distributed to the financial aid programs in the following order:

- Unsubsidized Federal Stafford
 - Federal PLUS Loan
 - State funds
 - Private or institutional scholarship(s) and loan(s)
- Any remaining balance will first be used to repay any outstanding university charges and any subsequent balances will be refunded to the student/parent.
- Exit interviews are required before leaving the University of South Carolina for all students who withdraw and have received Stafford, Perkins, or Federal Nursing Loans. Exit interviews can be completed on the Internet at <http://www.sc.edu/financialaid/>. Click on "Loan Counseling on the Web" and follow the instructions. Or, you may contact the Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships at (803)-216-3629 or the Loan Collection Department of the Bursar's Office at (803)-777-3559 for the Columbia Campus. Telephone numbers and referenced offices are different for each campus.

5. Summer Sessions and Other Shortened Sessions Refund Procedure for Withdrawal

Adjusted refund schedules are printed in the **Master Schedule of Classes** and are available in the Office of Financial Services.]

- a. 100% refund of the charges if the student's **Official Withdrawal Calculation** is by the end of late registration period
- b. 90% refund of the charges if the student's **Official Withdrawal Calculation** is between the period specified in (A) and on or before the end of the 10% period of enrollment for which the student was charged
- c. 50% refund of the charges if the student's **Official Withdrawal Calculation** is between the period specified in (B) and on or before the end of the 25% period of enrollment for which the student was charged
- d. 40% refund of the charges if the student's **Official Withdrawal Calculation** is between the period specified in (C) and on or before the end of the 36% period of enrollment for which the student was charged
- e. 25% refund of the charges if the student's **Official Withdrawal Calculation** is between the period specified in (D) and on or before the end of the 50% period of enrollment for which the student was charged

6. Refund Schedules

Refund schedules are printed in the Schedule of Classes.

7. Dropped Courses - Refund Procedure

A percentage of fees will be refunded for course(s) dropped within two weeks (fall, spring and summer) after the first official day of classes or within an equivalent period for other sessions. No refunds will be made thereafter.

- a. Drops - Fall And Spring Courses
 - i. 100% refund for courses dropped before the end of the late registration period
- b. Drops - Summer Terms
 - i. 100% refund for courses dropped before the end of the late registration period

- ii. 40% refund of the charges if the student's **Official Withdrawal Calculation** is between the period specified in (A) and on or before the end of the 36% period of enrollment for which the student was charged
 - iii. 25% refund of the charges if the student's **Official Withdrawal Calculation** is between the period specified in (B) and on or before the end of the 50% period of enrollment for which the student was charged
 - c. Other Shortened Sessions
Adjusted refund schedules are printed in the Schedule of Classes
 - d. Correspondence Course Fees¹
Circumstance:
 - i. 100% if application is not accepted
 - ii. 75% if withdrawal is within one month and/or before an assignment has been submitted for grading and correction
 - iii. No refund for withdrawal after one month, or after an assignment has been submitted for grading and correction
8. **Appeals Process**
A process for appeals exists for students or parents who believe circumstances warrant exceptions from published policy.
A Withdrawal Appeals Committee reviews and act on all appeals.

¹ All requests for refunds must be received in writing before the end of the first month of enrollment.

Financial Aid

Students in the School of Medicine are individually responsible for tuition, fees, and living expenses. It is imperative that all students anticipating the need for financial assistance at any time during their medical educations undertake early long-term planning. Limited aid specifically oriented for medical students is available from the School of Medicine. However, financial aid programs of the University of South Carolina make it possible for many students to attend the University who could not do so if they were entirely dependent on their own resources. Eligibility for all aid, except for some academic scholarships, depends on applicants' financial circumstances. Students must file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Renewal FAFSA annually to determine the amount of assistance they are eligible to receive. Information and application forms for the various financial aid programs may be obtained from the School of Medicine Office of Student and Career Services. www.sc.edu/financialaid (<http://www.sc.edu/financialaid/>)

Policy for Satisfactory Academic Progress for Financial Aid Eligibility

Medical students follow the graduate satisfactory academic progress policy set by the Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships.

Listed below are some of the financial aid programs available to students. For complete information, contact the School of Medicine Office of Student and Career Services.

Loans

Federal Loan Programs

Information about federal programs is subject to change based upon changes in federal legislation.

The Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan Program provides long-term, low interest loans to undergraduate, graduate, and professional students. In August of 2013, Congress passed and the President signed, the Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act of 2013. The Act ties federal

student loan interest rates to the financial markets. Under the Act, interest rates are determined each spring for new loans being made for the upcoming award year, which runs from July 1 to the following June 30. Each loan has a fixed interest rate of the life of the loan. The interest rate for the 2019-2020 academic year for the unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loans is 6.08%. These rates are subject to change by law.

Medical students have \$40,500 per year in unsubsidized eligibility, and a career maximum total of \$224,000 including any amounts borrowed as an undergraduate. Interest begins to accrue at the time the lender makes the loan and is not automatically deferred. A student may choose to pay the interest or request that it be deferred. This results in the deferred interest being capitalized and creating a greater expense during repayment.

Medical students are now eligible to borrow under the Federal Direct PLUS Loan Program up to their cost of attendance minus other estimated financial assistance. The terms and conditions applicable to the Parent PLUS loans also apply to Grad PLUS. These requirements include a determination that a student does not have an adverse credit history. Repayment begins on the date of the last disbursement of the loan. The interest rate for Grad PLUS is 7.08% for the 2019-2020 academic year. To apply for this loan students are required to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and must also have applied for a Federal Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loan.

Federal Programs with a Service Commitment

Information about federal programs is subject to change based upon changes in federal legislation.

National Health Service Corps Scholarships are offered by the federal government to students and physicians interested in pursuing careers in primary care and serving in health professional shortage areas in the United States.

Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship recipients are commissioned in the armed forces and their tuition, fees, books, and equipment, including microscope rental, are paid by their particular branch. In addition, a monthly stipend is paid directly to the student. Recipients are required to serve 45 days of training duty each year. Repayment is on a year-for-year basis. A deferment for postgraduate education is given only if a student is not chosen for a military residency program.

Other Programs with a Service Commitment

The John T. Stevens Foundation Grant

This grant is for up to four years of medical education expenses and is awarded to worthy medical students enrolled in the School of Medicine who reside in Lancaster or Kershaw county. The grant requires the scholar to practice in Lancaster or Kershaw county for a defined period of time upon completion of training. Call the USC School of Medicine at 803-216-3629 for more information.

Scholarships

Private Sources

Columbia Medical Society Auxiliary Scholarship. Established by members of the Columbia Medical Society and Auxiliary, several scholarships are awarded annually to deserving medical students.

Fullerton Medical Scholarship. The School of Medicine nominates one candidate from each entering class for consideration for the Fullerton Medical Scholarship. The scholarship nominee is guaranteed a minimum of \$1,000 for one year and competes for a four-year, \$80,000 Fullerton Medical Scholarship with medical students from other medical schools in