

MACALESTER

financialaid@macalester.edu
macalester.edu/financialaid
SECURE FILE UPLOAD
upload.macalester.edu

FINANCIAL AID OFFICE
1600 Grand Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55105-1899

PHONE (651) 696-6214
TOLL FREE (800) 231-7974
FAX (651) 696-6866

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT LEAVE OF ABSENCE/WITHDRAWAL & FINANCIAL AID

What is a Leave of Absence?

A student may request a Leave of Absence for a future semester or for a semester in progress. A Leave of Absence may be requested for various reasons, including but not limited to, health related, personal or military service. Detailed information about the Leave of Absence process can be found in the [Macalester College Student Handbook](#).

If I am approved for a Leave of Absence, will I still have to pay tuition for the entire semester?

Students who request and are approved for a Leave of Absence *prior* to the semester start date will not be charged tuition. Students who have been approved for a Leave of Absence *after* classes have started will be charged tuition, but may be eligible to receive a tuition refund according to Macalester's refund policy published in [the College Catalog](#). Students will receive a prorated tuition refund based on the days of the semester for which they were enrolled, with a 0% refund once a student has attended 60% of a semester.

Eligibility for a tuition refund is based on the last date of academic activity, which is determined by the Office of Student Affairs based on faculty report. If you choose to take a Leave of Absence or Withdraw from a semester when you had planned to study abroad, tuition refunds may vary based on the study abroad provider's policies and procedures.

Will I be charged for a full semester of room and board?

Room and board refunds are calculated on a daily basis by the number of days in the residence hall as of the checkout date. If you live on campus and are considering a Leave of Absence, you may contact [Residential Life](#) to obtain an estimate of what you will be charged based on a specific checkout date. (Students who move out of the College residences but remain enrolled in the College are not eligible for room and board refunds.) This policy is published in the [College Catalog](#).

How will my financial aid eligibility be affected?

Macalester Financial Aid

Scholarship and grant aid from Macalester will be adjusted so that the percentage of tuition paid by Macalester scholarship and grant aid is consistent. For example, if Macalester scholarship/grant aid paid 50% of the tuition before withdrawal, Macalester scholarship/grant aid will pay 50% of the tuition after withdrawal. You can find more details by visiting <https://www.macalester.edu/financialaid/policies/refunds/>

Federal Student Aid

Federal student aid regulations require that Macalester reduce a student's Federal Student Aid if the student withdraws before completing 60% of a semester. The reduction in Federal Aid varies based on individual situations. Federal Student Aid includes Federal PLUS Loans, Federal Subsidized and Unsubsidized Stafford Loans, Federal Perkins Loans, Federal Pell Grants, and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG). You can find more details visiting <https://www.macalester.edu/financialaid/policies/refunds/>

State Financial Aid

Financial aid from state agencies will be returned according to the state's policy.

Student Loans

If you are currently borrowing or have borrowed a Federal Direct Loan or Federal Perkins Loan, Macalester will provide you with Federal Loan information including your loan history, repayment information, and instructions on how to access your Federal Loan accounts.

Student Loan Status During Period of Non-Enrollment

It is important to understand that *your student loans may enter repayment during your period of non-enrollment* and that it is your responsibility to remain in touch with your loan servicer to ensure you do not become delinquent or default on your student loans.

If you enroll at another school at least half-time after you leave Macalester, or you return to Macalester and enroll for at least six credits, your Federal student loans will likely be eligible for in-school deferment and you will not be required to make loan payments until you graduate or cease to be enrolled at least half-time. Remember that your student loans may accrue interest even during an in-school deferment, depending on the specific type of student loan.

You can obtain information about all of your Federal student loans from the [National Student Loan Data System](#) (NSLDS) or you can call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-433-3243.

Please refer to the Financial Aid Office website for more information about [loan repayment](#).

What do I need to do when I return from a Leave of Absence?

There are several steps you should plan to take when returning from a Leave of Absence.

1. Communicate with the Registrar's Office.

The Registrar will attempt to contact you to provide registration instructions. It is important that you respond to those instructions in a timely manner so that you will be registered before you return to campus.

2. Apply for financial aid.

Financial aid application instructions are available on the Financial Aid Office website.

<http://www.macalester.edu/financialaid/apply/returningstudents/>

Once you have submitted the required documents, the Financial Aid Office will process your application and provide a Financial Aid Eligibility Notification letter.

3. Communicate with the Student Accounts Office.

If you did not receive a billing statement for the semester in which you will return, you should contact the [Student Accounts Office](#) to find out if you owe a balance.

4. Communicate with Residential Life.

If you are planning to live in on-campus housing when you return, you should contact [Residential Life](#).

Other Links

College Catalog

<http://catalog.macalester.edu/>

Student Handbook

<https://www.macalester.edu/studentaffairs/studenthandbook/>