

**Medical University of South Carolina
OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID**

2003-2004 FINANCIAL AID INSTRUCTION SHEET

Please read through this financial aid packet thoroughly. In order to process your request for financial assistance for the 2003-2004 academic year, you should follow the directions as indicated below. **THE PRIORITY DEADLINE FOR APPLYING IS MARCH 17, 2003.**

For the 2003-2004 award year, the U.S. Department of Education has provided students a number of options for filing their *2003-2004 Federal Application for Financial Aid (FAFSA)*. All students interested in applying for federal aid **MUST** use one of the methods listed below to provide application data for the 2003-2004 award year. The *easiest* and *fastest* way to apply for federal aid is over the Web.

OPTION 1 - FIRST TIME FILERS: If you have never applied for federal aid, you may now save time and effort by filing a complete 2003-2004 FAFSA electronically over the internet at **<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>** rather than completing a paper form. Once you have completed the application, you may print out a certification/signature page (if you have a printer) and mail it to the address listed on the page. If you do not have a printer, the Department of Education will mail you a printed SAR which you must sign and mail back for your application to be processed. If you want to electronically sign a submitted form (whether paper or electronic) you need to have a PIN (see below for website instructions). If you have a PIN, select “*sign my application electronically*”

OPTION 2 - REPEAT FILERS: As a repeat filer, you have several options:

- 1) If you either applied for aid electronically for the 2002-2003 year, made corrections to your application using the Web, or if you are a repeat filer and will be a graduate student in 2003-2004, you should have received a **PIN** (a Personal Identification Number) which was mailed directly to you sometime between November 7 and December 20. You may use your **PIN** to update last year's information and/or complete and electronically sign your *2003-2004 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)* by accessing the Web at **<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>** and following the instructions for the Renewal Application. (NOTE: If you meet the above criteria, you will **not** be mailed a paper renewal application.)
- 2) If you applied for aid in 2002-2003 using the paper application and you are an undergraduate student, you may still update last year's application electronically by accessing the internet at **<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>** and following the instructions for obtaining and using a **PIN** number to process your 2003-2004 Renewal FAFSA.

OPTION 3 - PAPER FORM: If you prefer, you may still complete and mail a paper version of the 2003-2004 FAFSA -- regardless of whether or not you have ever applied for federal aid. Please contact the MUSC Financial Aid Services Office if you would like a *2003-2004 Free Application for Federal Student Aid* form mailed to you.

Forms To Be Returned to the MUSC Office of Student Financial Aid

1. The 2003-2004 MUSC Application for Financial Aid;

2. 2002 Federal Tax Returns with all Schedules;

- C this includes student's, spouse's, and parents' federal tax returns (if you are required to provide parental information);
- C if you, your spouse, or parents (whichever is appropriate) did not file a 2002 Federal Tax return, you must submit a **Statement of Non-Filing Form** which is enclosed in your packet.

3. Federal Stafford Loan Application;

- C The lender you select is solely your choice.
- C If you are a new student at MUSC or a MUSC student who has never previously borrowed from the Stafford Loan programs, you will need to complete the enclosed loan application form; however, if this is not an application from the lender of your choice, you should either: 1) contact your lender for a new application form; or 2) you may use the application in your packet and simply mark through, change, and initial items #8 and #9 to reflect your chosen lender's information. (Continuing students who have previously borrowed through the Stafford Loan programs while attending MUSC can omit this step.)
- C All students must complete the *2003-2004 Loan Request Application Form* regardless of the lender you use. Write in the total amount of loan funds that you will need to borrow during the 2003-2004 year from the Federal Stafford Program. The maximum loan amounts for which you are eligible will be based on the amounts below minus other financial aid that you are awarded.

The maximum Stafford Loan (Subsidized/Unsubsidized combined) for ***dependent undergraduates*** is \$5500;

The maximum Stafford Loan (Subsidized/Unsubsidized combined) for ***independent undergraduates*** is \$10,500;

The maximum Stafford Loan (Subsidized/Unsubsidized combined) for ***graduate*** students is \$18,500. The maximum however, if you are enrolled in Dental Medicine, Health Administration graduate programs, Medicine or Pharmacy the annual limit is your Cost-of-Attendance minus all financial aid resources.

4. HHS Programs Application Sheet

1. Students enrolled in Dental Medicine, Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy who want to be considered for funds from the HHS Programs should complete and return the *HHS Application Sheet* to Financial Aid Services.

If you have any questions about the application process, please call the MUSC Office of Financial Aid Services at (843) 792-2536.

NOTE: ALL FIRST-TIME LOAN BORROWERS MUST ARRANGE AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID SERVICES TO ATTEND A PRE-LOAN COUNSELING SESSION. IF YOU DO NOT ATTEND, YOU WILL BE UNABLE TO PICK UP ANY OF YOUR LOAN CHECKS.