

Financial Aid Application Process:

- **File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):** We encourage all students to complete the FAFSA. The FAFSA is an application that collects financial and other information used to calculate the expected family contribution (EFC), which colleges and universities use to determine the student's eligibility for aid. **Priority processing deadline is May 1st.** The FAFSA is filed online at www.FAFSA.gov. The SMU school code is **003613**.
- **Complete and submit any requested documents:** If any additional documentation is needed in order to complete your file, you will be notified via email. You can also monitor your financial aid progress online by logging into Access.SMU, going to the Student Center, and clicking on the **FA Pony Tracks** link.
- **Wait until you receive your Financial Aid Award Notice:** You will be notified through your SMU email account when your award is ready. During peak processing times, please allow a minimum of 4-6 weeks after you file the FAFSA to receive your award notice. This is an estimated processing time line based on an average. Actual processing time could be more or less.
- **Review, Accept/Decline your awards:** You will be able to Accept, Decline, or Reduce your awarded loan eligibility through Access.SMU.
- **Complete Loan Process:** Approximately 2 business days after you have “accepted” your loans in Access.SMU, you will receive an email through your SMU email account with information regarding your loans and any steps you will need to complete in order to finalize your loans. .

Student Loan Borrower Information:

First-time borrowers: All of your Federal Loans are processed and funded through the U.S. Department of Education’s Federal Direct Student Loan Program. If you choose to borrow the Federal Direct Stafford Loan or the Federal Direct GradPLUS Loan, you will need to complete the following steps all on the www.studentloans.gov website.

1. **Federal Direct Stafford Loan:** Sign your Federal Direct Stafford Loan Master Promissory Note. One promissory note covers the Subsidized and Unsubsidized Stafford Loan
2. **Federal GradPLUS Loan:** Submit your Federal Direct GradPLUS application for approval and credit check. You will receive an instant credit decision. If credit is approved, SMU will receive an electronic record and will award your GradPLUS as a live loan. If denied, you will receive information on obtaining a co-signer (endorser) at that time.
3. **Complete the Loan Entrance Counseling:** The counseling session will take approximately 15 minutes to complete and will cover both the Federal Stafford and Federal GradPLUS loan required elements.

Prior Borrowers: **Federal Direct Stafford** - If you have previously borrowed a Federal Stafford Loan while attending SMU, you will not need to sign a new promissory note. You will already have a promissory note on file with the Dept of Education. Your “acceptance” of the Federal Stafford in Access.SMU is all that is needed.

Federal Direct GradPLUS – A new application must be submitted for credit approval each time you wish to borrow a Federal GradPLUS. Please log into www.studentloans.gov and submit your GradPLUS application. If credit is approved, SMU will receive an electronic record and will award your GradPLUS as a live loan. If denied, you will receive information on obtaining a co-signer (endorser) at that time.

You can check the status of your Financial Aid at any time by logging into Access.SMU and clicking on your “FA Pony Tracks”.

2011- 2012 Cost of Attendance

	Full Time (9 hours)	Part Time (6 hours)
Tuition	\$19,152	\$12,768
Fees	\$3,348	\$2,232
Room and Board	\$19,800	\$19,800
Books and Supplies	\$1,000	\$1,000
Transportation	\$3,600	\$3,600
Personal Expenses	\$2,600	\$2,600
TOTAL	\$49,500	\$42,000