



The University of Mississippi

Office of Financial Aid

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Policy Name: 18.0 Overawards

Purpose: This document contains the Office of Financial Aid's current policies and procedures for Overawards.

Disclaimer: This policy is subject to change, without notice, in order to comply with administrative and regulatory requirements.

Policy Content:

18.0	Overaward Overview
18.1	Determining Student Need
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Definitions and terms:

COA – Cost of Attendance
EFC – Expected Family Contribution
FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid
MTAG – Mississippi Tuition Assistance Grant
OFA – Office of Financial Aid
UM – University of Mississippi

Part 18.0**Overaward Overview**

A student's financial aid package is "overawarded" when the total aid offered exceeds the amount for which he/she is eligible.

When an overaward occurs, the financial aid database system (ProSAM) generates a diagnostic indicating what type of overaward (either over need or over COA). This diagnostic prevents all aid from disbursing, and also prevents the student from viewing the award notification online. Instead, the student will see a message indicating that the OFA is reviewing their financial aid awards.

When an overaward is determined, an OFA administrator or advisor must manually review the student's financial aid awards and make any necessary adjustments in order to resolve the status.

Part 18.1**Determining Student Need**

As specified by the U.S. Department of Education, a student's need is determined by subtracting the EFC from the COA as shown below. The EFC is determined by the federal processor from data provided on the FAFSA, utilizing the methodology formula authorized by Congress.

$$\text{COA} - \text{EFC} = \text{Need}$$

Part 18.2**Types of Overawards**

There are four main types of overawards:

1. Over need – when a student's need-based and gift aid (scholarships, grants, and other resources) exceed the student's need.
2. Over COA – when the COA-based aid, in combination with other awards and resources, exceeds the COA.
3. Federal Pell Grant/MTAG – when the Federal Pell Grant in combination with MTAG award exceeds the maximum Pell amount.
4. Fee-Specific Scholarship over award – when the combination of two fee specific scholarships targeting the same fee exceeds the associated cost charged on the student's bursar account.

Part 18.3**Student and Institutional Responsibilities**

The student is required to report all outside resources to the OFA. These resources include all scholarships, loans, and/or other funding that is paid directly to the student or to UM on the student's behalf. Not reporting these resources is a violation of federal regulations.

Institutional scholarships must all be reported to the OFA. If any department on campus is aware of a student award, the entire institution is expected to have knowledge (per federal regulations regarding administrative capability).

Part 18.4**Correcting Overawards**

Because students may change enrollment during the award period, or receive additional scholarships and/or resources at any time during the award period, and these supplementary resources must be added to a student's financial aid package, overawards can occur at any time. As stated earlier, the OFA is required to resolve overawards.

When a student's financial aid exceeds need, the OFA must reduce the student's need-based aid. When a student's financial aid exceeds the COA, the OFA must reduce the student's COA-based aid. When the combination of the Federal Pell Grant and MTAG awards exceed the maximum Pell amount, the OFA must reduce MTAG.

When a student has two or more fee-specific scholarships and the total amount of these awards exceeds the amount of the targeted fee, OFA must reduce the award(s) to equal the amount of the associated fee.

If the OFA reduces any aid that is in "paid" status, a payback may be required. Paybacks are charged to the student's bursar account, for which the student is responsible.

Part 18.5**Ole Miss Opportunity Awards**

Through our Ole Miss Opportunity program, the University guarantees that eligible Mississippi resident students will receive financial aid support to cover the average cost of tuition, residence hall housing, and an allowance for meals. This program will fill the gap in funding after all federal, state, institutional, and private scholarships and grants awarded to the student have been considered.

Each year the OFA will determine the amount of the Ole Miss Opportunity cap based on the current rates of tuition, housing, and meal plans. If an additional scholarship or grant is added to put the student's scholarship and grants total over the cap amount, the Ole Miss Opportunity award must be re-calculated.

The lists below indicate some of the types of aid. Due to the hundreds of different aid awards, these lists are not exhaustive.

Examples of need-based aid:

- Luckyday Success
- McKinstry Loan
- Federal Direct Subsidized Loan
- Federal Work-Study
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
- Health Professions Loan

Examples of COA-based aid:

- All institutional Fund 10 scholarships*
- Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan
- Most State of Mississippi Aid Programs (i.e., MTAG)
- Federal Direct PLUS (including Graduate PLUS)
- Private educational loans
- Federal TEACH Grant
- Most UM foundation scholarships

Examples of gift aid:**

- Federal Pell Grant
- Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant (MESG)

*NOTE: According to the State of Mississippi regulations, if any Education and General (Fund 10) funds are used to scholarship the student, the student's financial aid package shall not exceed the COA. Therefore, Fund 10 scholarships, in combination with all other financial aid and resources, may not exceed the student's estimated COA. If it does exceed the COA, it is subject to reduction.

**NOTE: Gift aid is not typically restricted.