

Award Notification and Acceptance of Financial Aid:

Current and returning students are sent an email notification of their award letter. Students can view their award letter online and are required to accept or decline their aid by logging into their online account. Students must comply with all the requirements of the financial aid programs listed on the award letter to receive funds. New students, who do not yet have a log in, will be mailed their award letter.

Award Criteria

- All awards are applied to the student's tuition and room and board account.
- Awards must be used in the academic year received.
- Federal and state awards are based on expected funds that are considered tentative until actually received.
- SHMS cannot guarantee substitute awards if anticipated outside sources of aid are not paid.
- Awards are subject to change if a student is offered additional funds from outside sources, and if the award total exceeds the financial need figure on the student's award notification.
- A student's award may be re-evaluated if an extreme change occurs in his or her financial circumstances. Students whose family obligations change significantly during the year should notify the Financial Aid office in writing.
- Students receiving Federal (Title IV) assistance must maintain a 2.0 grade point average, finish the program within a specified time frame, as well as complete a specified number of credit hours each year.

Additional criteria considered in making a financial aid award may include loan origination fees (Direct Federal Stafford Loans or private loans), dependent care costs while the student attends school, special needs costs for students with disabilities, unusual household or medical costs, or private school education expenses for children K-12. Students meeting any of these additional criteria should send a letter to the Financial Aid office director, outlining the type and amounts of these expenses. Documentation supporting the letter should be included.