
FINANCIAL AID

Financial need is determined by the United States Department of Education approved needs analysis application: the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The University makes available employment opportunities and loans based on merit and demonstrated financial need.

All students must submit the Rockhurst Institutional Application for Financial Aid to maximize their eligibility for all awards. It is recommended that students apply as early as possible for financial aid as funding is limited.

Application Process

Students who wish to be considered for financial assistance at Rockhurst should:

1. apply for admission to the University (new and former students only);
2. complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); and,
3. complete a free Rockhurst University Institutional Aid Application.

Priority awarding consideration is given to all aid applications completed no later than April 1 of the year prior to fall enrollment. Students may apply for financial assistance anytime during the academic year.

Programs must be reapplied for each year. Generally, new aid applications become available in December to apply for aid funds for enrollment during the following academic year. Federal aid applications may not be filed until after January 1.

Government Aid

Rockhurst graduate students who qualify may receive the following sources of federal and state financial aid. After completion of the FAFSA students receive a Student Aid Report (SAR), which must be on file in the Office of Financial Aid so that eligibility for any of the programs below can be determined:

Federal Perkins Loan Program

These low interest loans are available to graduate students who demonstrate need.

Federal Stafford Loan Programs

These low interest loans are available to students who demonstrate financial need. Students may qualify for either a subsidized Stafford Loan (interest does not accrue until after graduation) or an unsubsidized Stafford Loan (interest begins accruing immediately). Interest rates on these loans are variable based on the 91-day Treasury Bill. Loan amounts vary dependent upon the level of demonstrated financial need, and previous loan history.

Employment Opportunities

Career Services helps students define their job objectives and serves as a resource for locating part-time jobs, summer positions, and full-time post-graduate employment. All students are encouraged to use Career Services to receive guidance with their job search. Special emphasis is placed on developing job opportunities for students near the Rockhurst campus.

Graduate Assistantships

Some graduate programs offer graduate assistantships to students enrolled in their programs. These assistantships allow graduate students to work one-on-one with faculty mentors. Please contact the program to which you are applying or to which you have been accepted to see if assistantships are available.

Reasonable Academic Progress for Continued Receipt of Financial Aid

Authority

The Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended and the final regulations set forth by the Department of Education in 34 CRT 668 requires institutions of higher education to establish reasonable standards of satisfactory progress. A student who does not meet these standards is not eligible to receive federally funded financial aid. Rockhurst University shall make these standards applicable to all federal, state and institutional programs for the purpose of maintaining a consistent and reasonable financial aid policy.

Satisfactory Progress Standards

A student is making satisfactory progress for a degree if successfully meeting two basic academic standards. First, a student must complete a reasonable number of credit hours toward a degree each academic year. Second, a student must maintain academic standing, derived from grades, that allows for continued enrollment at Rockhurst under current academic guidelines.

Each student's progress will be measured each semester to determine the progress made. Each term of attendance shall be included in the annual review regardless of whether any financial aid was received for the term. Requirements for satisfactory academic progress for graduate students are established by the appropriate school or college division. Students should also refer to the Graduate Academic Policy section of this catalog, specifically policies regarding time limits for completion of a master's degree, quality point requirements, and program progression policies.

Notification

The Financial Aid Office will notify in writing any student who is no longer eligible to receive financial aid. This notice shall be addressed to the student's current permanent address on file with Rockhurst. It is the responsibility of students to inform the Registrar's Office at Rockhurst of their correct address at all times.

Reinstatement

Students will have their eligibility to receive financial aid reinstated when they have reached the level of satisfactory progress required by this policy. Students may be reinstated by the completion of incomplete grades, correction of incorrect grades, by earning more than the required number of completed hours for a term or by approval through the appeal process. It is the student's responsibility to inform the Financial Aid Office of any changes or corrections.

Appeals

Students may appeal for reinstatement based on mitigating circumstances, such as personal injury, illness, accidents, death of a parent or spouse or other hardship circumstances supported by appropriate documentation. Appeals should also present evidence of academic improvement documented by grade reports, academic advisers, or special actions of the Rockhurst Academic Board.

Appeals from students must be made to the Financial Aid Office, in writing, using the Appeal Form, within ten working days of notification. The Financial Aid Office will provide a written decision to the student within twenty working days after receipt of the appeal. The decision of the Financial Aid Office and the Rockhurst Financial Aid Committee is final. Send appeals to:

Director of Financial Aid

GRADUATE ACADEMIC POLICY

Requirements for Completion

The minimum requirements for program length and quality standards for graduate degree programs at Rockhurst University are described below. Each program may, however, impose more comprehensive requirements than these; therefore, the student should carefully review both this section and the section of this Catalog corresponding to the specific program of interest.

Hours Requirement: The successful completion of 30 hours of graduate credit acceptable to Rockhurst is the minimum requirement for the awarding of any Rockhurst Master's degree. Each program may establish specific requirements including additional coursework beyond the 30-hour minimum for the successful completion of that specific degree program.

Time Limits for Completion of a Master's Degree: Students must complete all requirements for the master's degree within six years of initial registration in the program. The matriculation of students who exceed the specified time limits may be automatically terminated. Extensions of time to complete a degree may be granted by the respective dean upon recommendation of the Department Chair, Program Director, or in the case of the Helzberg School of Management (HSOM), by the associate dean.

Quality Point Requirements: The quality standard established to denote minimally acceptable academic progress in any graduate program is a quality point average (cumulative grade point average) of 3.0. Each program may establish a higher quality point average for the successful completion of that program.

Graduate Grading Policy

All graduate programs at Rockhurst University use a uniform system of grading. The system is as follows:

A	4.0	Denotes superior academic performance at the graduate level.
B+	3.33	Denotes above average academic performance at the graduate level.
B	3.0	Denotes average academic performance at the graduate level.
C	2.0	Denotes below average, but passing academic performance at the graduate level.
F	0.0	Denotes academic performance of poor quality which will not be accepted for degree credit for any Rockhurst degree program.
I		Incomplete. May be assigned only for serious reasons and with the concurrence of the appropriate dean. A grade of Incomplete must be removed within six weeks or it automatically becomes an F.
W		Withdraw. Denotes that the student was allowed to withdraw without penalty.
HP		High or honors passing. This grade is given only in clinical arrangements,