

#### PAYMENT INSTRUCTION GUIDE

# Graduate Students FALL 2015

### STEP1

If you have not already done so, create a password through the Student Financial Services (SFS) Communication Consent form at www.utica.edu/consent.

#### STEP2

When your Billing Statement is ready for viewing you will receive an email at your Utica College email address. Log in to your Utica College account through the Banner Web Site at <a href="http://bannerweb.utica.edu">http://bannerweb.utica.edu</a> and "Enter Secure Area."

#### STEP3

After viewing your Billing Statement, determine whether you will pay the amount due in full or use a Graduate PLUS Loan or Alternative Education Loan. You can make a secure online credit card and/or electronic check payment by visiting Banner Web at <a href="http://bannerweb.utica.edu">http://bannerweb.utica.edu</a> and "Enter Secure Area."

## Payment on the Fall 2015 semester is due on or before August 14, 2015.

If you do not plan to attend Utica College this Fall, please notify the Office of the Registrar at Registrar@utica.edu or our office at sfs@utica.edu

#### **Frequently asked questions**

## Why do I have to create a password to be able to speak with SFS?

Creating a password through the SFS Communication Consent Form is the best way we have to verify your identity and secure your personal and financial information. As of June 1, 2010, students are required to provide a password to verify their identity before speaking with any member of Student Financial Services concerning offered aid, eligibility for aid and/or account information. Students can access the electronic form under the Important Forms section of the Student Financial Services webpage or at www.utica.edu/consent.

#### How do I view my bill and make a payment?

You are able to view your bill and make a secure online credit card and/or electronic check payment as well as access a variety of other options by visiting banner at <a href="http://bannerweb.utica.edu">http://bannerweb.utica.edu</a> and "Enter Secure Area." You will be prompted to enter your UC user name and password. You then click on the following: Student Services-> Student Account -> Access My Account.

<u>To View Your Bill</u> – Under "Your Bills" click on "View." Your charges are based on the number of credit hours for which you have registered. Your Financial Aid amounts are based on the information we have received as of the date of this billing. If you

have not yet applied for Financial Aid, you can do so at <a href="www.fafsa.ed.gov">www.fafsa.ed.gov</a>. Until all required Financial Aid documentation is complete, your Financial Aid is estimated and is subject to change which could also result in you owing more or less at a later billing date. We have calculated your estimated amount due by subtracting your financial aid and any payments you may have already made from your charges.

## I cannot pay the amount that is due. What are my options?

\*Grad PLUS loan - The Grad PLUS Loan is a federal loan that is available to graduate students and is taken out for both the Fall 2015 and Spring 2016. To apply for a Grad PLUS Loan, please visit www.studentloans.gov to complete an application. Please be advised, only one application may be submitted and changes cannot be made to an application after its submission. If you would like to make changes to the Grad (PLUS) Loan, please contact your Student Financial Services Counselor. A credit check is required for a Grad (PLUS) Loan. You will receive notification of approval shortly after you submit the application. If the Grad (PLUS) Loan is not approved, you have the option to appeal this decision with the Direct Loan Program Center or obtain a credit worthy endorser. If you chose the endorser option, they will need to complete an addendum online at www.studentloans.gov.

#### \*Alternative Education Loan

An Alternative Education Loan is an education loan that is in the student's name. It is not a guaranteed federal loan and must also go through an approval process that usually requires a creditworthy cosigner. We encourage you to research various private loans. New York State provides a useful private loan comparison tool at www.utica.edu/loancompare. Once you have decided on a loan product you should apply directly through the lender. Borrowers will be required to submit several timesensitive disclosures back to the lenders as part of the loan process. It is important to carefully read all of the communication sent to you electronically or by mail from Utica College and your alternative loan lender. Like the Grad PLUS Loan, the Alternative Education loan is taken out for the Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 semesters.

\*Please note: If your approved Grad PLUS or Alternative Education Loan covers your academic year charges, you do not need to make a payment at this time.

## Why does a Health Insurance fee appear on my bill?

If you are a full-time student taking 6 or more credit hours per semester, a health insurance fee will

appear on your bill. Health insurance coverage is required for all full-time students. If you have no other health insurance, you will automatically be enrolled in Utica College's insurance plan and charged the required fee. If you currently have health insurance coverage, you will need to submit a waiver starting after July 1, 2015. The website is still to be determined and will be accessible on our website at a later date.

#### Can I use Financial Aid to help buy my books?

If you are a returning student and your finalized financial aid exceeds your charges, you may be eligible to transfer an advance of excess funds from your account to the Utica College Bookstore to purchase books. If you are eligible, you can request this option by contacting your SFS Counselor, Jenna Urbanke at <a href="mailto:jurbanke@utica.edu">jurbanke@utica.edu</a> to complete a "Request for Excess Funds for Books."

# What if I have any other questions that aren't answered here or on the Student Financial Service (SFS) website?

Please contact the SFS office at <u>sfs@utica.edu</u> or 315-792-3179 and an SFS Information Specialist will be happy to help you with any questions you may have.

#### **IMPORTANT**

If you do not plan on attending Fall 2015 please notify the Office of the Registrar at <u>registrar@utica.edu</u> or the Office of Student Financial Services at <u>sfs@utica.edu</u>