

Method and Frequency of Aid Disbursement

How will I receive my financial aid funds?

Most financial aid funds will be credited directly to your student account. Funds that will be directly disbursed to your student account include:

- Institutional scholarships
- Federal financial aid grants and loans
- Private education loans
- Third party funds (outside scholarships, third-party payments, 529 plan funds)

The only funds that are not credited directly to your student account are work aid funds (Federal Work Study, Columbia Work Award, etc.). Any funds that you earn as a result of working in an on-campus job will be issued paid to you via direct deposit. For more information on how to receive work award funds, please visit [Student Employment](#).

When will I receive my financial aid?

Private loan funds may be credited to your student account up to 14 calendar days prior to the start of the semester. Federal loan funds may be credited to your student account up to 7 calendar days prior to the start of the semester. All other funds will be credited during the first full week of classes.

Refunds are issued beginning the first date of private loan disbursement. However, if you are not enrolled full-time your refund may be delayed pending finalization of your enrollment status.

If you are anticipating a refund and will need a short-term advance on your monies, please contact SFS for more information.

How often is aid disbursed?

Financial aid funds are posted on a weekly schedule and refunds are processed daily once the semester begins.

Why didn't my aid disburse?

The most common reason that your aid did not disburse is due to outstanding documentation such as verification documents, final high school transcript, or completion of loan counseling or master promissory note. Please check your OASIS student portal to see if you have any outstanding items.

In other cases, your aid may not have disbursed due to eligibility issues. For example, institutional scholarships require you enroll at full-time status and federal loans require that you enroll at least half-time. To review eligibility for different aid programs, please visit our [Funding Sources](#) page. If you still have questions, feel free to contact SFS.