

James Madison University
Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships
The Affects of Dropped and Withdrawn Classes
on Financial Aid Eligibility

A student's enrollment level is critical in determining eligibility for financial aid. In some instances, a change in enrollment level after a financial aid package has been awarded can lead to an adjustment to financial aid eligibility. You can learn more about the factors considered when awarding financial aid by going to http://www.jmu.edu/finaid/wm_library/How_Finaid_Awarded.pdf.

Students typically change their enrollment by dropping or withdrawing from classes. Before going any further, it is important to understand the difference between a dropped and withdrawn class:

- **Dropped Class** – This class will not show up on a transcript and the student is not charged for the course. It is as if the student never signed up for the class.
- **Withdrawn Class** – A grade of W, WP, or WF will show on the transcript for a withdrawn class. Visit the Registrar's Office at www.jmu.edu/registrar for more information about these grades. In most instances students will incur charges for a withdrawn class. Please visit the University Business Office at www.jmu.edu/ubo if you have questions about charges for withdrawn classes.

Drops and withdrawals are treated very differently for the purposes of determining financial aid eligibility. The sections below will describe the different ways these actions will affect financial aid eligibility.

Affect of Dropping a Class(s) on Financial Aid Eligibility

Dropping a Class(s)

Financial aid eligibility will always be reviewed whenever you drop a class. In some instances this means previously awarded aid will be reduced and/or canceled.

Example:

- Undergraduate student was registered for 12 credit hours (full-time status) on 8/27/07 and all federal and state aid was disbursed on 8/27/07
- On 8/29/07 the student drops to 9 credit hours
- As a result of this drop, the student's entire financial aid package will be recalculated based on 9 hours
- In some instances, this means the student will receive a bill for financial aid previously disbursed at the full-time rate

The exception to this rule applies to undergraduate students taking more than 12 credit hours in a semester. If they drop a class(s), but remain above 12 credits, then their aid will not be reviewed as their eligibility will not change.

Please contact [The Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships](#) if you have questions about how dropping a class will affect your financial aid eligibility.

Affect of Withdrawing From a Class(s) on Financial Aid Eligibility

Withdrawals can affect a student's financial aid eligibility in multiple ways, which are discussed below

All Aid Has Not Disbursed & Partial Withdrawal(s)

Please contact The Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships at www.jmu.edu/finaid if you are withdrawing from a class(s) and all of your federal and state financial aid has not been disbursed for the semester.

In some situations aid may need to be reduced and/or canceled based on the withdrawal(s). In others you may be allowed to keep all of your financial aid funds for the current semester despite the withdrawal.

Even if your aid for the current semester is not be affected by the withdrawal, withdrawing too much can cause you to lose financial aid eligibility for future semesters. This is explained in the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy for financial aid. You may view the SAP policy at <http://www.jmu.edu/finaid/sap.shtml>.

All Aid Already Disbursed & Partial Withdrawal(s)

If all of a student's federal and state financial aid has been disbursed for the semester, and the student subsequently withdraws from a course, there will be no impact on his aid for that semester.

An exception to this is if the student also received state grant money, which may need to be reduced if the University Business Office reduces the student's charges based on the withdrawal. Please visit the University Business Office at www.jmu.edu/ubo if you have questions about charges for withdrawn classes.

Example:

- Undergraduate student was registered for 12 credit hours (full-time status) on 8/27/07 and all federal and state aid was disbursed on 8/27/07
- On 9/7/07 the student withdrew to 9 credit hours
- No changes will be made to his financial aid for the semester (note exception above)

Even if your aid for the current semester is not be affected by the withdrawal, withdrawing too much can cause you to lose financial aid eligibility for future semesters. This is explained in the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy for financial aid. You may view the SAP policy at <http://www.jmu.edu/finaid/sap.shtml>.

All Aid Already Disbursed & Withdraws From All Classes

If you withdraw from the university, the University Business Office may adjust your charges based upon your withdrawal date and the JMU Refund Policy. For the university refund policy, please refer to the University Business Office web site at www.jmu.edu/ubo. For information on the withdrawal process at JMU, please visit www.jmu.edu/registrar.

Regardless of any adjustment to your charges, if you withdraw from the university, your financial aid may be adjusted based on the percentage of the semester you completed before withdrawing.

Example:

- Undergraduate student was registered for 12 credit hours (full-time status) on 8/27/07 and all federal and state aid was disbursed on 8/27/07
- On 9/7/07 the student withdraws from all 12 credit hours
- Student is subject to the Federal Return of Title IV Funds (R2T4) policy to determine if any federal aid needs to be reduced and/or canceled
- Student is subject to applicable state regulations to determine if any state aid needs to be reduced and/or canceled

Please review the *Affects of Withdrawal From the University (Return of Title IV Funds)* section of the *JMU Terms and Conditions for Financial Aid* document under the "Forms" link at www.jmu.edu/finaid for information and examples on the impact withdrawing from the university can have on a student's financial aid eligibility.

Additionally, withdrawing too much can cause you to lose financial aid eligibility for future semesters. This is explained in the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy for financial aid. You may view the SAP policy at <http://www.jmu.edu/finaid/sap.shtml>.