Distance Education

Summary/Purpose: Distance Education programs and financial aid

Study Abroad

The University of Mississippi offers many opportunities for students to participate in programs off campus. These include study abroad as well as special workshops, camps and other experiences not offered on our schedule. Some of these programs are administered directly by the University of Mississippi and earn University of Mississippi credits. Others are administered by a "host" institution and credits earned in the programs appear on a student’s transcript as transfer hours. These latter programs require a Consortium Contract between the University of Mississippi and the "host" institution. The difference in program administration affects how we process financial aid for various programs.

A student may use federal student financial aid to help defray the expenses of off-campus programs, but should follow the steps below. Please remember that summer terms are the last terms in the academic year. This means that financial aid for summer will be packaged according to students’ remaining eligibility for the current academic year.

First, students should determine whether the program will earn University of Mississippi credits or whether credits earned will be transfer credits. Contact the Study Abroad Office for this information at http://www.olemiss.edu/abroad.

- Students participating in programs that require a consortium agreement are not eligible for State Aid (i.e. MTAG, MESG, William Winter, etc.) nor are they eligible for Institutional or Foundation Scholarships (i.e. Academic Excellence, Lucky Day, non-resident alumni, etc.)

- The only types of aid eligibility with a consortium agreement are: Pell grant, Stafford student loans, PLUS loans or private (alternative) loans.

All Students:

In order to receive most forms of federal student aid for any term, students must enroll at least half-time. Half-time enrollment is 5 hours for graduate or law students or 6 hours for undergraduate and pharmacy students.

Students must be able to cover advance expenses (air fare, deposits, etc.) on their own. Loan funds will not be available to pay charges that are due in advance of the program.

For Programs Offered Through Other Institutions

Students whose programs are administered by another institution must complete a Consortium Contract with the host institution. Please contact the Office of Financial Aid to initiate this agreement at least six weeks prior to the beginning of the program. If the student does not meet
with an advisor, the student will not receive any aid.

- Student must provide the Office of Financial Aid a brochure, printed material or web site containing the details of the program in which you wish to participate.

- Student must submit a completed **Transfer Credit Course Approval Form** to the Study Abroad Office for "out of country" programs or a **Permission to Transfer Form** for "American universities" to your department or dean confirming that the credits earned in the program will transfer back and be counted toward your degree requirements.

- Complete Direct Deposit Form with the Office of the Bursar. [http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/financial_aid/online/DirectDepositInformation.htm](http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/financial_aid/online/DirectDepositInformation.htm)

- Student must plan to be billed by the other institution and not the University of Mississippi. The University of Mississippi will send financial aid proceeds to you and you must arrange to handle your bill directly with the other institution.

- Student must contact the Office of Financial Aid in writing upon withdrawal from any Study Abroad program. Aid already disbursed must be repaid. Pending aid will be withdrawn from the student's award package.

The Office of Financial Aid will take responsibility for calculating awards, disbursing aid, monitoring satisfactory progress and other student eligibility requirements, keeping records, disbursing FSA funds and returning funds if the student withdraws from the program.

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**Correspondence Courses** (Independent Study Courses offered by the Office of Independent Study and not by the Office of the Registrar)

When the student enrolls for his/her correspondence course, his/her bursar account will be charged with his/her correspondence course tuition and fees. The correspondence course tuition fee is a separate and an additional charge to all main campus and branch campuses' tuition and fee charges. If the student is enrolled as a full-time student with 12 or more hours, then the student still will be assessed a correspondence course tuition charge as well as a full-time campus tuition charge.

Most scholarships including University Scholarships, such as Academic Excellence and University Foundation Scholarships, will not accept correspondence courses as part of their enrollment requirements. No state aid including MESG and MTAG will allow correspondence courses to be used to fulfill the enrollment requirement. Faculty/Staff and Child of Faculty/Staff scholarships can be used to pay for Correspondence Courses.

A student may receive some types of federal financial aid when enrolled in correspondence courses. However, there are requirements that must be met before any aid will be released to the student's bursar account. The student must complete the on-line **Request to Use Correspondence**
Courses for Financial Aid form and meet with a financial aid advisor to determine eligibility and aid amounts at least two weeks before the beginning of the semester or term of enrollment. If a student does not meet with a financial aid advisor, the student will not receive any aid. In general, the student must complete the mid-course exam before the hours can be counted.