Managing your Educational Investment
2012 - 2013
Minimize Debt: It’s not too early to start!

• Pay off all consumer debt before starting school.
• Don’t take on any new consumer debt while in school.
• Borrow only what is absolutely necessary in student loan funds.
Review Student Loan Borrowing History

• KNOW WHAT YOU OWE!

• Review your borrowing history at: www.nslds.ed.gov – the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS)

• For students enrolled in health profession programs there is an aggregate loan limit of $224,000.
Maintain Good Credit

• Use the website:  www.annualcreditreport.com
  – the ONLY free site required by Congress.

• Review all three national credit reporting agencies each year. Equifax, Experian, and Trans Union all are available.

• You may want to purchase your FICO (Fair Issac Corporation) score which includes data from all 3 credit bureaus:  www.myfico.com. (This is not a free service.)
Establish a Budget

• Develop a budget to accommodate weekly, monthly, quarterly, and annual expenses.

• Evaluate budget for items that can be reduced or eliminated.

• Monthly payments for prior student loans will be deferred while in school.

• Financial aid will only cover the student’s own basic expenses while in school (not spouse and children).
Components of a Budget
For Dental School

Direct costs
• Tuition and fees
• Books and supplies

Indirect costs
• Housing
• Food
• Utilities
• Transportation
• Personal
• Loan fees
Estimated Cost of Attendance

Definition

Standard Cost of Attendance (COA) is the total aid a student may receive in all types of financial assistance (grants, scholarships, loans, etc.). Students may request a personal cost of attendance review if the student has some basic expenses above the standard allowances.
## Cost of Attendance
### School of Dental Medicine, 2011-12

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall 2011</th>
<th>Spring 2012</th>
<th>Summer 2012</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition and fees</td>
<td>$7,722</td>
<td>$7,722</td>
<td>$7,722</td>
<td>$23,166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books and supplies</td>
<td>$8,260</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$8,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>$1,350</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$1,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Educational Cost</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$32,776</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing and food</td>
<td>$4,430</td>
<td>$4,430</td>
<td>$4,430</td>
<td>$13,290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal</td>
<td>$1,142</td>
<td>$1,142</td>
<td>$1,142</td>
<td>$3,426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$490</td>
<td>$490</td>
<td>$490</td>
<td>$1,470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan fees (variable)</td>
<td>$105</td>
<td>$105</td>
<td>$105</td>
<td>$315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Living Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$18,501</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Estimated Cost of Attendance, 2011-12</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$51,277</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sources of Funding for Dental School

- Stafford loans: Direct
- Health Professions Student Loan
- Institutional Scholarships/Grants
- Military scholarships
- Privately funded scholarships
- Graduate PLUS loan
- Alternative loans
Federal Financial Aid

- Apply by filing the 2012-2013 FAFSA
- Last minute deadline to ensure funds will be available on time to use toward Fall bill is February 14, 2012.
- FAFSA website: www.fafsa.ed.gov
- ECU school code: 002923
- Maximum **Stafford loan amount** for a Dental student is **$47167** (for 12 month enrollment)
Federal Direct Stafford Loan Interest Rate

- Interest rate of 6.80% as of 7/1/06 for any new graduate loans.
- Unsubsidized Stafford Loans accrue interest while in school.
- Pay quarterly unsubsidized interest statements for long term cost savings.
Scholarship Opportunities

• Research on web through www.fastweb.com.
• American Dental Education Association www.adea.org
• College Foundation www.cfnc.org
Alternative Loans

• Access alternative lender websites through links at: www.ecu.edu/financial

• Evaluate terms and conditions of loan products to make best decision.

• Higher interest rates than federal loans; borrow as little as possible.

• You may borrow up to your remaining COA after taking into consideration federal loans, scholarships, and any other resources.

• Alternative loans should be last resort of funding!
Loan Payments After Graduation

• Example based on Stafford loan aggregate of $189,125 and monthly payment at fixed interest rate of 6.80%:
  – Standard 10 year repayment = $2,176.46
  – Extended 25 year repayment = $1,312.66

• Repayment amounts assume student is fully paying quarterly interest statements on unsubsidized loan while in school.

• Loan calculator:
  http://www.mappingyourfuture.org/paying/standardcalculator.htm
Loan Consolidation

• Consolidation loan allows borrower to combine one or more federal education loans into a new loan that has the following advantages:
  – Lower fixed interest rate
  – One lender/one monthly payment
  – Flexible repayment options
  – Reduced monthly payments

• Frequently Asked Questions about loan Consolidation: www.loanconsolidation.ed.gov
In Conclusion...

If you live like a dentist while you’re a student, expect to live like a dental student when you become a dentist!
ECU Student Financial Aid

• Main Number (252) 328-6610
• Address: Mail Stop 510
  Old Cafeteria Complex
  Greenville, NC 27858
• Email: faques@ecu.edu
  Always state “Dental Student” in subject line.
• Fax: 252-328-4347