

Financial Aid Office Federal Return of Title IV Refund Policy

If a student withdraws from Murray State University (MSU), the school, the student, or both may be required to return some or all of the federal funds awarded to the student for that semester. A student who withdraws from all classes prior to completing 60% of the enrollment semester is subject to having financial aid eligibility adjusted based on the percentage of the semester completed.

This policy applies to all Title IV federal aid recipients with disbursed aid from any of the following Federal programs: *Federal Direct Stafford Loans (Unsubsidized and Subsidized), Federal Perkins Loan, Federal Direct PLUS Loans (Graduate and Parent), Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG), Academic Competitiveness Grant, National SMART Grant, and TEACH Grant.*

Students contemplating withdrawal from all classes, prior to completing 60% of the semester, should discuss their options with the Financial Aid Office to determine how withdrawal will potentially impact their financial aid.

To determine how much money a student may owe, they must contact the Bursar's Office. The Bursar's Office will automatically use any credit on the student's account as payment toward a policy calculation.

The formula used in the federal calculation divides the aid disbursed to a student account into 'earned' aid and 'unearned' aid. During the first 60% of the period of enrollment (a semester), a student will 'earn' federal funds in direct proportion to the length of time the student remains enrolled. If a student remains enrolled beyond the 60% point, then aid is considered 'earned' for the period. 'Unearned' aid is the amount of disbursed federal funds that exceeds the amount of aid 'earned' under the formula.

The percentage of the period a student remains enrolled is derived by dividing the number of days attended by the number of calendar days in a semester (excluding scheduled breaks of 5 consecutive days or more). This is referred to as the percentage completed (% completed).

Earned aid is calculated by multiplying the total aid that can be disbursed by the % completed.

- If 'earned' aid is equal to 'disbursed' aid, no calculation is required.
- If 'earned' aid exceeds 'disbursed' aid and the student has aid that has not yet been disbursed, a calculation is required to determine a post-withdrawal disbursement amount.
 - MSU will send an email to the student's MSU email address to verify whether or not the student would like the funds disbursed for the semester.
 - The student will be given 14 days from the notification to respond. The Financial Aid Office has up to 180 days to disburse funds after the withdrawal date has been determined.
- If 'earned' aid is less than 'disbursed' aid, a calculation is required to determine the difference to be returned by MSU and the student. The following calculation will be used:

Return to Title IV Calculation Example		
	Number of Days Attended	23
	Number of Days in Semester	109
Total Charges (Tuition, Fees, Housing, Books(if charged to student's account))		2,214.00
	Account Balance	0.00
Total Aid that could be 'disbursed'		1,500.00
Step #1 Determine 'earned' aid		23/109
		21%
Step #2 Determine 'unearned' aid		100% - 21%
		79%
Step #3 Determine amount of 'earned' aid		1,500.00 * 21%
		315.00
Step #4 Determine amount of 'unearned' aid		1,500.00 – 315.00
		1,185.00
Step #5 Determine the difference of 'unearned' aid to MSU charges		2,214.00 * 79%
		1,749.06
Step #6 Determine amount MSU is required to refund		The Lesser of Step #4 or Step #5
Step #7 MSU must return		1,185.00
Step #8 Student must return the difference of Step #7 minus the Account Balance		1,185.00

If a student does not earn at least one credit hour for the total credits of all courses attempted during a semester, the Financial Aid Office is required to comply with the Return to Title IV Refund Policy, as well as the Murray State University Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy.

The chart provides a few examples to calculation possibilities.	
If the student's course grades are a combination of an E, I, X, W, or AU and all required work is submitted, then the grade was earned by the student.	MSU is not required to complete the calculation.
If the student's course grades are a combination of an E, I, X, W, or AU and the student walked away prior to the 60% point, this is considered an unofficial withdrawal.	MSU is required to complete the calculation.
If the student's course grades are a combination of an E, I, X, W, or AU and the student walked away after the 60% point, this is considered an unofficial withdrawal.	MSU is required to complete the calculation for file purposes only.
If the student never began attendance in courses prior to the 60% point, but then walked away and never completed the course, this is considered an unofficial withdrawal.	MSU is required to complete the calculation using the midpoint of the semester if the Last Date of Attendance is not recorded.
If the student enrolled in a course and did not begin attendance, this is considered an unofficial withdrawal.	MSU is required to complete the calculation.

If a student begins enrollment in a course, plans enrollment in a later course start, and does not attend, it may be considered as an unofficial withdrawal unless the school receives written confirmation of the plans to attend if more than 45 days from the first class that was began.	MSU may be required to complete the calculation.
<p><i>It is the student's responsibility to ensure the Financial Aid Office receives either a letter (on departmental letterhead) or an email from an instructor noting the last date of attendance for your presence in class. Financial aid recipients who do not earn any credit hours for a given semester are notified by mail of the deadline for submitting documentation of class attendance for the semester. Late certifications will not be accepted.</i></p>	

Monies will be refunded to the federal programs in the following order:

*Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan
 Federal Direct Subsidized Loan
 Federal Perkins Loan
 Federal Direct Grad/PLUS Loan
 Federal Pell Grant
 Academic Competitiveness Grant
 National SMART Grant
 Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant
 TEACH Grant
 Iraq Afghanistan Service Grant*

The Financial Aid Office is obligated by federal regulation to review aid recipients receiving all unearned credits. If not monitored, it could result in Murray State University paying monetary fines and potentially jeopardizing participation in federally funded programs. The assumption behind the law is a student receiving all unearned credits walked away from the semester without properly withdrawing from the university. These students must be identified within 30 days from the date final grades are posted to the student's transcript.