

# RENEWAL OF FINANCIAL AID

When packaging first-year students for financial aid, Muhlenberg operates within a "preferential packaging" mode. That is, the students with the most attractive combination of academic and extracurricular credentials receive the most attractive packages (i.e., weighted most heavily with institutional grant moneys). In order to continue this awarding practice throughout the college years, an annual review of the recipient's current record must be made and a financial aid package created to reflect this record. The composition of this renewal package, particularly regarding institutional monies, is based on the student's academic achievements, positive contributions to the Muhlenberg community, and status within the college's social judicial system. **Poor academic performance or violations of Muhlenberg's Social Code could jeopardize institutional aid funding.**

These academic guidelines for institutional aid may be modified due to extenuating circumstances. Students should notify the Office of Financial Aid if they believe that these circumstances could adversely affect their GPA. Some grants and scholarships have very specific renewal criteria. See your award letter or the Muhlenberg College catalog for this information.

The renewal packages are, of course, also based on financial need as determined by your yearly filing of the appropriate forms required by the Office of Financial Aid.

**All financial aid awards are made for one year only and must be renewed annually.** For merit awards, renewal is automatic in the sophomore year provided the student has a cumulative 2.5 GPA and is in good academic and social standing. After the sophomore year, merit awards are renewed based on a cumulative 3.0 GPA and good social standing at the College.

Need-based financial aid packages (grants and scholarships, including restricted and unrestricted, loans and work-study) must be renewed annually through an application process that involves refile, by stated deadlines, the CSS Profile Form, FAFSA and other forms each year, and providing the Office of Financial Aid with updated 1040 and W2 forms each year as well. Need-based financial aid packages can change (up or down) based on changes in a family's financial circumstances. Examples of circumstances that might cause a change in a need-based financial aid package could include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A significant rise or drop in family income;
- More or fewer siblings in college at the same time that you are attending Muhlenberg;
- More or fewer family members living at home;
- A significant rise or drop in parent or student assets.

Students who are not making satisfactory academic progress toward graduation and/or who have a negative impact on the campus community through their behavior may jeopardize their financial aid.