Dear Student:

Greetings from the Tulane University Financial Aid Office located on the Health Sciences campus. We know you must be proud and excited about the next academic step you are about to undertake. However, we expect that one of your concerns is, “How am I going to afford to pay for school without mortgaging my future?” Let us assure you, this important and valid question is being asked by many of your peers who are facing a similar situation. We hope the following information will help you in exploring your financial options and making decisions regarding your public health education.

Each year, more and more students find it necessary to rely upon student aid programs in financing their health sciences education. Last year nearly 65% of Tulane public health students applied for and received some form of financial assistance. As a new student, we want to inform you of the financial aid programs available and how we determine your eligibility for those programs.

FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION PROCESS
Applying for financial aid is a relatively simple process. The key is to start early and to be complete and accurate in your answers to required application questions and in your submission of required documents. We must receive the following items before your aid application is considered complete and ready for processing:

1) Results from your completion of a 2017-2018 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (a/k/a 2017-2018 FAFSA). NOTE: We encourage you to complete the FAFSA via the Internet by using “FAFSA on the Web” at: www.fafsa.ed.gov. If you completed a FAFSA last year (2016-2017), then you may be eligible to complete a “Renewal FAFSA on the Web”. Check out www.fafsa.ed.gov for more details.

2) A completed 2017-2018 Tulane School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine Financial Aid Addendum.

3) Other documentation as requested. Please refer to the “How to Apply for Aid” section of our web site found at: http://tulane.edu/financialaid/hsc/sphtm/sphtm-apply.cfm.

That is basically all there is to the initial application process.

FINANCIAL AID INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES

Please take time to carefully review all of the information found on our web site, as it is loaded with information that you will find helpful.

Your FAFSA data is used in determining your financial need and, therefore, the amount and type of federal student loan programs for which you qualify. These programs include, the Federal Direct Student Loan Program, the Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan, and Federal Work Study. For descriptions of the federal loan programs please refer to the “Tulane University Comprehensive Guide to Graduate Financial Aid” found at the following web site address: http://tulane.edu/financialaid/hsc/resources.cfm.
FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

SCHOLARSHIPS

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH & TROPICAL MEDICINE RPCV
The Tulane School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine Master’s has limited grant funds available for students. There is only one grant available and it is the Return Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV). The RPCV is for students who are returned Peace Corps volunteers. The student does need to apply for this grant in addition to their application to the university. The Admission Committee uses a ranking system based on multiple variables to determine the recipients of the grant. This grant is non-renewable scholarships usually awarded during a student’s first year of attendance and typically for the amount of $5,000. Recipients must maintain a minimum enrollment requirement of 9 hours each semester of their first academic year. The Dean of Admissions finalizes all RPCV Grant awards. For more information about the RPCV Grant program, contact the Office of Admissions.

PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS
Many foundations, organizations, and other entities offer financial support to students pursuing a degree in public health fields. We strongly urge students to take an aggressive approach in attempting to secure such support on their own. An excellent way to search for possible private scholarships and loans is on the Internet at the following URL address: http://www.finaid.org
Potential private sector assistance may also be found by contacting your local chamber of commerce, hospitals, clinics, and health profession societies. You should attempt to identify any support that may be available to you by virtue of your ethnicity, race, gender, religion, and social organizations to which you or your family may belong.

MILITARY SCHOLARSHIPS
The Air Force and Navy offer full scholarships covering tuition and fees, a stipend for books, supplies and living expenses. In exchange for their financial assistance, you agree to serve the military’s public health needs for a period of time following your graduation. If you would like information about military scholarship programs, we recommend that you contact your local recruiter or visit them on the internet.

LOANS

FEDERAL PERKINS LOANS
Congress has terminated the Federal Perkins Loan program effective 10/01/15, and so, no awards can be offered to incoming students.

WILLIAM D. FORD FEDERAL DIRECT LOAN PROGRAM
The Federal Direct Loan program will typically be a major source of financing for Tulane public health students. If eligible, students may borrow up to $33,000 per year of Federal Direct Unsubsidized funds. “Unsubsidized” means that the student pays the interest on the loan while in school (or agrees to capitalize the interest and add it to the principal upon repayment).

The fixed interest rate for loans borrowed between 7/01/16 and 6/30/17 is 5.31%. The interest rate for each academic year can be described as variable-fixed. In June of each year, the interest rate for the following academic year is determined by the government. Loans taken out that year will have an interest rate that is fixed for the life of that loan (meaning until the loan is paid off). The next year, the process is repeated and the interest rate for that year is determined.
FEDERAL DIRECT GRADUATE PLUS LOANS
The Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan program, introduced in 2006, is an unsubsidized loan which requires that the borrower pass credit worthiness criteria. Eligible borrowers may borrow up to the cost of attendance less other aid received.

The fixed interest rate for loans borrowed between 07/01/16 and 6/30/17 is 6.31%. The interest rate for a Graduate PLUS loan will adjust in the same manner as the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan.

NON-FEDERAL PRIVATE ALTERNATIVE LOANS
Private alternative loans are non-federal credit based loans that usually have variable interest rates, thus you need to check with your lender regarding the exact terms. These loans require that the borrower pass credit worthiness criteria and allow for students to borrow up to the cost of attendance less other aid received. Students who are eligible are recommended to borrow from the Federal Direct Graduate PLUS loan Program.

EMPLOYMENT

FEDERAL WORK STUDY
Federal Work Study (FWS) funds are awarded to those demonstrating a financial need. Funds are limited thus students completing their financial aid applications early are given FWS preference. The typical academic year work study award is $3,000.

THE FINANCIAL AID PROCESS - REVISITED

Once your Tulane financial aid file is complete, we will determine your eligibility for the various available aid programs. When we finish processing your application, we will send you an e-mail notification that your financial aid award is complete, along with instructions how you can view and accept your award via the internet.

Your financial need is calculated by subtracting your calculated expected contribution towards your educational costs from the university’s approved cost of attendance budget. The budget for 2016-2017 academic year has not been determined yet. The approved 9-month budget for public health students during the 2016-2017 academic year is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TUITION &amp; FEES</td>
<td>$32,382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(assuming 24 credit hours for the academic year)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOOKS &amp; SUPPLIES</td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROOM &amp; BOARD</td>
<td>14,012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRANSPORTATION</td>
<td>3,074</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEALTH INSURANCE</td>
<td>3,030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MISCELLANEOUS</td>
<td>1,614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$55,312</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Federal regulations governing financial aid allow for some adjustments to a student’s budget in situations of unusual financial circumstances. If you provide us with a written request, including documentation of circumstances and specific expenses incurred, we will reconsider your budget and award.

TULANE BILLING POLICIES

Tulane bills students at the start of each semester during the academic year. Each billing reflects the tuition and fees associated with your credit hours of enrollment, plus any other charges incurred (such as bookstore purchases, campus controlled rent, monthly parking fees, etc.). Your first billing will also include the cost of the university’s health insurance, although this amount may be canceled if you provide proof of coverage under another health insurance program. At the end of each month a finance charge is applied to any unpaid account balance on your student account. Contact the Tulane University Accounts Receivable Office (504-865-5368) if you have any questions regarding your billing statements.
You should establish a realistic budget for your living expenses. Determine what amount of your financial aid will be needed to help you meet your living expenses. **WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU ARRIVE AT SCHOOL WITH ADEQUATE FUNDING TO FINANCE YOUR LIVING EXPENSES FOR THE FIRST TWO MONTHS.**

**CREDITWORTHINESS TESTS FOR CREDIT-BASED LOAN PROGRAMS**

Credit-based loan lenders perform a creditworthy evaluation on all applicants to their Federal Direct Graduate PLUS loans and their non-federal private loan programs. Student borrowers (and/or their co-signers if applicable for private loans) must pass the lender’s creditworthiness standards prior to their approval of a credit-based loan application. **(NOTE: There is no creditworthiness evaluation requirement for the processing of Federal Stafford loans).**

Before applying for credit-based education loans or if you are ever denied credit, you should request a copy of your credit report from a local agency or from one of the national credit reporting agencies. Review the report carefully, paying particular attention to the number of accounts, total account balances, and the timeliness of payments. If you find any derogatory information that appears to be incorrect, you should contact the credit reporting agency. Unfortunately, errors can occur in your credit report. Common reasons for errors are: inconsistent reporting by creditors, wrong or misplaced dates, wrong amounts, double reporting, incorrect reporting due to common names, parents and students having the same address and name, and incomplete reporting of demographic information. Items that are reported in error can be corrected, but it can take several months to have the corrections made. In order to expedite delivery of a credit-based loan for your education, you should correct any credit problems prior to starting the loan application process.

**NOTE: If a loan is denied on the basis of a poor credit rating, whether or not the poor credit rating is in error, Tulane University’s School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine does not have funds to replace that denied loan.**

**FINAL COMMENTS**

For now, you need to adhere to the following schedule:

1. Complete the 2017-2018 FAFSA and submit it to the federal processor as soon as possible.
2. Complete the 2017-2018 Financial Aid Addendum and submit it online as soon as possible.

Watch for financial aid correspondence (by mail and/or e-mail). Most financial aid applicants will hear from us in early April about their financial aid package. We will be sending appropriate loan application instructions and additional budget information when it becomes available.

We hope this letter will prove informative to you. If you need additional information, or have any questions concerning the material provided, please feel free to contact our office at (504) 988-6135. Again, congratulations on your pursuit of a Tulane education. We wish you continued success in the upcoming academic year.

Sincerely,

Michael T. Goodman  
Associate Vice-President  
University Financial Aid

Revised 10/07/16