



## Policy FA2.01: Financial Assistance Programs

Oversight	Information
Policy Type	Financial Aid
Policy Owners	Director of Financial Aid, Director Student Accounts
Initial Policy Approval Date	September 1, 2010
Current Revision Approval Date	May 21, 2019
Procedure Effective Date	May 21, 2019

### Policy

American Sentinel University participates in Pell Grant, William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program, and Plus Loan Programs. The financial aid staff assists students in obtaining financial assistance to pay for their educational expenses. Available resources include federal financial aid. Federal assistance programs are administered by the U.S. Department of Education. Any U.S. citizen, national or person living permanently in the United States who is enrolled or accepted for enrollment may apply for such assistance. Every student considering application for financial aid should request a copy of the current Student Guide, published by the U.S. Department of Education. This important document may be obtained from American Sentinel's Financial Aid Office and helps students understand eligibility requirements, the federal financial aid application process, deadlines and the various forms of aid available.

### Federal Pell Grant

The Federal Pell Grant Program provides need-based grants to low-income undergraduate students and certain post-baccalaureate students to promote access to postsecondary education. Pell grants are awarded based on an annual Pell chart/table released by the Department of Education. Generally, Pell grants are based on a student's EFC, enrollment status and the COA of the school at which they are attending. Amounts are determined by the annual Pell chart/table. American Sentinel University uses Pell grant formula 1 in awarding.

### William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program

Subsidized Direct Loan - This loan is for students attending at least half-time. The federal government will pay the interest for you while you are enrolled at least half-time, during a grace period or during authorized deferments. The Federal Subsidized Stafford Loan has a low fixed interest rate and a six-month grace period prior to repayment.

Unsubsidized Direct Loan - This loan is for students attending at least half-time. Repayment of principal is not required while you are enrolled at least half-time, but interest is charged from the time you receive the loan funds. Students have the option to pay the interest when billed each term or defer interest payments. If you allow the interest to accumulate, the interest will be added to the principal and will increase the amount you have to repay. The Federal



Unsubsidized Stafford Loan has a low fixed interest rate and a six-month grace period prior to repayment.

### **Federal Direct PLUS Loans:**

Direct PLUS Loan - graduate students may be eligible for the PLUS loan. The Federal PLUS Loan has a fixed interest rate of 7.6% for loans disbursed before July 1, 2019 (rates are set annually). There is also the option of delaying repayment on the PLUS loan either 60 days after the loan is fully disbursed, or six months after the student is not enrolled at least half-time.

All loan borrowers must complete the Federal Master Promissory Note (MPN) if they are interested in applying for a Subsidized or Unsubsidized loan. Students can receive multiple loans under the Note over a period of 10 years unless it is revoked or canceled by the lender, school or guarantor.

American Sentinel University required entrance counseling prior to disbursement as well as Exit counseling which is conducted as soon as a student ceases ½ time enrollment or registers for graduation.

### **Guidelines**

- Not Applicable

### **Procedure**

- Not Applicable

### **Related Documents/References**

- Financial Aid Policy and Procedure Manual (2019 Version)
- Student Handbook

### **Definitions**

- None

### **Revision History**

- 8/24/2010 Financial Aid Department
- 4/08/2014 Financial Aid Department
- 5/21/2019 Financial Aid Department
- May 7, 2020: Updated policy format for accessibility guidelines - AHB