



# Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine

## Financial Aid Across the Doctor of Medicine Curriculum

**Course Start Date:** Beginning of M1 year  
**Course End Date:** End of M4 year

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**Course Hours:** Special sessions throughout M1 to M4  
**Office Hours:** M-F 8:00am – 4:30pm by appointment

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## Contact Information

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### Purpose of the Syllabus:

This syllabus is a guide for participation in the financial aid curriculum and should help in financial literacy for students; information is subject to change.

### Course Description:

The Financial Aid Across the Doctor of Medicine Curriculum is a four year-long program designed to assist students in their understanding of funding resources. Associations such as the AAMC and NHSC, guest speakers and financial aid personnel are utilized to weave financial literacy into their curriculum. The curriculum will focus on the following to help students better understand financial aid resources:

- loan portfolios,
- budget planning and debt management,
- financial literacy development,
- reflection and counseling and self-directed webinars,
- videos and podcasts.

In addition, the Financial Aid Across the Doctor of Medicine Curriculum will address **LCME Standard 12: Medical Student Health Services, Personal Counseling, and Financial Aid Services** that states, “A medical school provides effective student services to all medical students to assist them in achieving the program’s goals for its students. All medical students have the same rights and receive comparable services.” **Standard 12.1 Financial Aid/Debt Management Counseling/Student Educational Debt** states, “A medical school provides its medical students with effective financial aid and debt management counseling and has mechanisms in place to minimize the impact of direct educational expenses (ie., tuition, fees, books, supplies) on medical student indebtedness.”

### Required in the Curriculum (Federal Government):

All students borrowing federal loans need to complete required Entrance and Exit Counseling electronically via [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov) .

### Collaborative Financial Literacy Model:

The financial aid curriculum will be implemented using a multi-disciplinary approach that is collaborative in nature and interwoven into the student’s four years of medical school. Students will be exposed to a variety of professionals based on their areas of expertise throughout the curriculum. When applicable, inter-professional

panels will be highlighted during the curriculum to provide insight into specific areas such as debt management from a physicians' perspective and financial planners to discuss responsible financing options. Active participation and interaction during these panel discussions will be expected.

### Course Assessments:

1. Entrance counseling electronically via [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov)
2. Entrance counseling with GCSOM financial aid staff member
3. AAMC Student Loans and Repayment Strategies webinar
4. Exit counseling electronically via [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov)

### Course Outcomes:

At the conclusion of the 4-year long curriculum, students will:

- Understand how to access loan portfolio information to identify types of loans, loan servicer and contact information.
- Distinguish between the types of loan repayment options that are available in residency and beyond.
- Create a budget that includes managing student loan payments.
- Know where to obtain pertinent financial aid information and resources.
- Acquire knowledge regarding debt strategies post-graduation (purchasing a home, financial planning, etc.).
- Formulate sound financial choices that will have positive consequences on the student's financial well-being.

### Instructional Methodology:

The curriculum will utilize presentations, discussions, webinars, podcast and videos, articles, newsletters and websites to disseminate information. Please see the information listed below for an in depth look at the curriculum offerings.

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
<b>Debt Management</b>	<b>Debt Management</b>	<b>Debt Management</b>
Accepted Student Day Financial Aid Presentation Orientation Financial Aid Presentation Financial Aid Website Financial Aid Guidebook Personal Appointments Mandatory 1:1 Loan Borrowers Semester Financial Aid Newsletter (2 per year) NHSC Short Videos/Webinar School Students & Residents Home Financing for Graduating Medical School (Webinar) Budgeting & Understanding Loans Presentation & Pre-Matric Information Home Financing Workshop	Orientation Financial Aid Presentation Financial Aid Website Financial Aid Guidebook Personal Appointments Semester Financial Aid Newsletter (2 per year) NHSC Short Videos/Testimonies Webinar School Students & Residents Home Financing for Graduating Medical (Webinar) Understanding Your Debt: Physicians Perspective AMES Scholarship Information (PA Residents) Emails and Phone Calls Habits for Financial Health Webinar	Financial Aid Website Financial Aid Guidebook Personal Appointments Semester Financial Aid Newsletter NHSC Short Videos/Webinars AMES Scholarship Info (PA Residents) Emails and Phone Calls Debt Management & Loan Repayment Preparing for M4 Year Cost of Residency Webinar AAMC Education Debt Management Information Repayment Options for Married Couples

<p>Emails and Phone Calls Understanding Debt From A Physician's Perspective</p>		
<p><b>Financial Aid Counseling</b></p> <p>1:1 Financial Aid Sessions (Loan Borrowers) MD Student Bulletin Loan Application Process Instructions MD Interview Day Presentation Accepted Students Day Financial Aid Presentation Military Reps-Accepted Student Day Financial Aid Application Process (letter sent with acceptance letter) Financial aid award letter &amp; COA Loan application process instructions Office appointments Semester newsletter (2 per yr) Email: Private Scholarships Email: Application filing requirements Email: Loan Requirements Budgeting &amp; Planning Information (Pre-matric) FAFSA deadline reminders Financial Aid Sessions During ECLIC Weeks Financial aid guidebook Financial aid website</p>	<p><b>Financial Aid Counseling</b></p> <p>MD Student Bulletin Email: Financial Aid Application Process Loan Application Process Instructions Office Appointments Semester Newsletters (2 per year) Emails: Private Scholarships FAFSA Deadline Reminders National Scholarship (AAMC, AMA) Emails Financial Aid Guidebook Financial Aid Website NHSC Emails &amp; Updates NHSC Scholarship Emails Financial Aid Sessions During ECLIC Weeks</p>	<p><b>Financial Aid Counseling</b></p> <p>MD Student Bulletin Email: Financial Aid Application Process Loan Application Process Instructions Office Appointments Semester Newsletters (2 per yr) NHSC Scholarship Emails Emails: Private Scholarships FAFSA Reminder Deadline National Scholarships (AAMC, AMA) Emails Financial Aid Guidebook Financial Aid Website NHSC Emails &amp; Updates NHSC Scholarship Emails Financial Aid Sessions During Core Weeks Financial Aid Sessions during ECLIC Weeks</p>

## Year 4

### Debt Management

Financial Aid Website  
Financial Aid Guidebook  
Personal Appointments  
1:1 F/A sessions (Customized Loan Portfolio Review & Loan Repayment Options)  
Target Emails to Students at or above National debt to have customized appointments  
Semester Newsletters (2 per yr)  
NHSC Short Videos/Webinars  
AAMC Webinar: Home Financing for Graduating Medical Students & Residents  
Emails and phone calls  
AAMC Customized Exit Counseling presentation during MATCH week  
Financial Planner Presentation During MATCH Week  
Education Debt Management Document from AAMC  
AAMC Webinar: Public Service Loan Forgiveness  
Home Financing Webinar (hosted by Physician Loans)  
AAMC Webinar: Cost of Residency  
Email: NHSC Student to Service Applications  
AAMC Webinar: Financial Planner Seth Smith  
AAMC Webinar: Habits for Financial Health in Residency  
AAMC Webinar: Repayment Scenarios for Married Couples  
AAMC Webinar: Using MedLoan Organizer and Calculator for Loan Repayment Options  
AAMC Webinar: Cost of Residency Interviews  
Email: Exit Counseling Instructions & How to Use MedLoan Organizer & Calculator  
M4 Newsletters

### Financial Aid Counseling

Financial Aid Sessions During Core Weeks  
1:1 Customized Counseling Sessions for Repayment Options, PSLF, Loan Portfolio Information  
Financial Aid Guidebook  
Financial Aid Website  
Semester Newsletter (2 per year)  
Emails: Financial Aid Processing Information  
MD Student Bulletin

## Projected Course Schedule:

### Financial Aid Across the Doctor of Medicine Curriculum

Semester Offered	Topic	Session Objective	Audience	Format	Estimated Time
Fall	Financial Aid Newsletter	To provide students with an understanding of relevant financial aid topics and deadlines.	All students	Newsletter	15 minutes (highly suggested)
Spring	Financial Aid Newsletter	To provide students with an understanding of relevant financial aid topics and deadlines.	All students	Newsletter	15 minutes (highly suggested)
Fall	NHSC "Up Close and Personal with NHSC and Nurse Corp Providers	To provide students with an understanding of the service commitment programs.	All students	Videos and testimonials about the NHSC program	45- 60 minutes (highly suggested)
Spring	AAMC Webinar for Home Financing for Graduating Medical School Students and Residents	To provide students with an understanding of home financing in concert with their student loan commitments.	All students	Webinar	45- 60 minutes (highly suggested)
Fall	Budgeting and Planning Information	To provide students with a framework for budgeting throughout the MD curriculum to reduce medical school debt.	M1	Pre-matriculation information	30 minutes (required)
Fall	Individual Loan Counseling	To provide students with required federally mandated information regarding loan borrowing.	M1	<a href="http://www.studentloans.gov">www.studentloans.gov</a>	20 minutes (required)
Fall	Individual Loan Counseling Appointments	To provide students with customized information regarding financial aid resources.	M1	Individual appointments with financial aid staff members	60 minutes (required)
Spring	Budgeting and Understanding Your Loans	To provide students with customized information regarding financial aid resources.	M1	Presentation during ELICS Week	50 minutes (required)

Fall	Financial Aid Orientation Session	To introduce students to the financial aid staff and the processes and procedures for financial aid.	M1 & M2	Presentation with Bursar's Office	15 minutes (required)
Fall	Question and Answer session for disbursements process, loan interest, origination fees and balances	To introduce students to the fundamentals of disbursements process, loan interest, origination fees and balances.	M1 & M2	Presentation	30 minutes (highly suggested)
Spring	Understanding Your Debt: A Physician's Perspective	To introduce students to the fundamentals of disbursements process, loan interest, origination fees and balances.	M1 & M2	Presentation from Dr. Olaf, Regional Dean Geisinger Danville during ELICS Week	60 minutes (required)
Fall	Alliance Medical Education Scholarship-AMES Scholarship through the PA Medical Foundation Society	To provide students with an understanding of the outside scholarship opportunities to reduce student debt.	M2 & M3	Email	15 minutes (highly suggested)
Fall	Debt Management and Loan Repayment	To provide students with options for loan repayment.	M3	Presentation	30 minutes (required)
Spring	Preparing for M4 Year	To provide students with an understanding of how to coordinate and budget for residency interviews.	M3	Presentation	30 minutes (required)
Fall	Home Financing Workshop	To provide students with an understanding of home financing in concert with their student loan commitments.	M3 & M4	Webinar hosted by Physicians Loans	60 minutes (highly suggested)
Fall	Cost of Residency & Cost of Applying to Residency Webinar hosted by AAMC (or view the AAMC articles)	To provide students with an understanding of how to coordinate and budget for residency interviews.	M3 & M4	Webinar hosted by AAMC	60 minutes (highly suggested)
Fall	Education Debt Manager and FIRST Videos and Webinars Information	To provide students with an understanding of how to manage educational debt.	M3 & M4	Email	15 minutes (highly suggested)



Fall	National Health Service Corps	To provide students with an understanding of the NHSC service commitment programs.	M4	Email containing information, videos, and articles	15 minutes (highly suggested based on interest)
Spring	AAMC Webinar- Financial Planning with Seth Smith	To provide students with an understanding of financial wellness.	M4	Webinar	60 minutes (highly suggested)
Fall	AAMC Webinars - Habits for Financial Health in Residency and Beyond	To provide students with an understanding of financial wellness.	M3 & M4	Webinar	60 minutes (highly suggested)
Spring	AAMC Webinars - Repayment Scenarios for Married Couples	To provide students with an understanding of loan repayment options as a married couple.	M3 & M4	Webinar	60 minutes (highly suggested)
Fall	AAMC Webinars - Using Med Loan Organizer & Calculator for Loan Repayment Options	To provide students with an understanding of student loan debt after graduation.	M4	Webinar	60 minutes (highly suggested)
Fall	AAMC Webinars - Public Service Loan Forgiveness-What You Need to Know	To provide students with an understanding of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program.	M4	Webinar	60 minutes (highly suggested)
Fall	AAMC Webinars - The Cost of Residency Interviews	To provide students with an understanding of the cost of residency interviews.	M4	Webinar	60 minutes (highly suggested)
Spring	AAMC Exit Counseling	To provide students with an understanding of their rights & responsibilities as a federal loan borrower.	M4	Presentation	90 minutes (required)
Spring	Preparation for Exit Counseling Using Med Loan Organizer & Calculator	To provide students with the tools needed to calculate repayment debt.	M4	Email	15 minutes (highly suggested)
Spring	Professional Financial Planner	To provide students with an understanding of financial well-being.	M4	Presentation	60 minutes (required)
Spring	Customized individual counseling sessions with financial aid to discuss loan repayment options	To provide students with an understanding of repayment options in residency	M4	Customized meetings	30 – 45 minutes (highly suggested)

Spring	1:1 Financial Aid Session (Customized for students with higher than average debt)	To provide students with an understanding of repayment options during & after residency focusing on cost effective ways to pay back high debt amounts.	M4	Customized Meetings	30 – 45 minutes (highly suggested)
Spring	M4 Newsletter	To provide students with important financial aid dates and deadlines.	M4	Newsletter	15 minutes (highly suggested)