

## Quick Facts: **Undergrad to Grad at MSU**

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Students who attend Michigan State University as undergraduates and are admitted to begin a graduate degree immediately upon completion of the undergraduate degree should be aware that financial aid for the first graduate year may be inaccurate until the undergraduate degree has been conferred in the Student Information System (SIS).

### **What are the timing concerns when you move directly from an undergraduate to a graduate program at Michigan State University?**

If you apply for aid soon after October 1st for the upcoming fall, you generally receive an award notice in late March or April. However, if you're still an undergraduate at that time, your financial aid will be based upon your undergraduate status and will not be correct. You should expect to receive a revised award based upon your new graduate status once the undergraduate degree has been conferred. This triggers the Office of Financial Aid to revise your budget and aid to graduate status.

For students graduating Spring Semester, this means you won't have an accurate aid offer until mid-May. If graduating at the end of Summer Semester, an accurate package will not be available until mid-August. Contact the Office of Financial Aid if you think you may be in this situation.

### **What are the differences between the types and amounts of aid as an undergrad vs. as a graduate student?**

Costs differ (and thus the amount of aid a student may receive) primarily due to the difference in the cost of undergraduate vs. graduate tuition. However, undergraduates are budgeted with 15 credits per term in tuition cost, while graduate students are budgeted with 9 credits per term. ([www.finaid.msu.edu/sampbud.asp](http://www.finaid.msu.edu/sampbud.asp))

- Federal grant programs such as the Pell Grant, which are available to first-degree undergraduates are not available for graduate students.
- Federal Direct (Stafford) Loan limits increase for graduate students. ([www.finaid.msu.edu/limits.asp](http://www.finaid.msu.edu/limits.asp))
- Graduate students are also eligible for the Graduate PLUS loan if more funding is needed after the maximum Direct loan has been borrowed. ([www.finaid.msu.edu/gradplus.asp](http://www.finaid.msu.edu/gradplus.asp))

Financial aid advisors can give you a general overview of what your aid will be once your status changes. You should contact the Office of Financial Aid for assistance.