

Frequently Asked Financial Aid Questions (FAQs):

Q: Is the bi-weekly stipend subject to taxes?

A: The stipend is compensation for your services as a Gryphon and will be processed through the Payroll office. The stipend is subject to federal, state, and local income tax withholding.

Q: Given that the stipend is considered reportable income for the student, how will that impact the student's financial aid eligibility when they re-apply for future years?

A: The Office of Financial Aid calculates an expected family contribution (as determined by the CSS profile along with the FAFSA and all tax documents that are submitted to our office) to determine a student's financial need. A portion of the expected family contribution is calculated based on the student's earned income from the prior-prior tax year. For example: Fall 2023/Spring 2024 aid is determined using 2021 taxes. Income earned from being a Gryphon for Fall 2023 will be 2023 income which won't be factored into the aid calculation until the Fall 2025/Spring 2026 academic year.

Your income from the Gryphon stipend alone typically is not significant enough to impact your expected family contribution, however, if you have any additional income (i.e. summer employment or other part time employment income), you may see an increase in your expected family contribution and a corresponding decrease in your aid package in the future academic year (when we use that year's income). Students should always contact their financial aid counselor to discuss this if they are concerned that this may impact their financial aid award in subsequent years.

Q: How will this affect my financial aid package (for the academic year in which you are receiving the Gryphon compensation package)?

A: The room charge portion of your compensation package (Gryphon Award) is considered financial assistance and must be taken into consideration when determining your financial aid package. The Office of Financial Aid determines eligibility for institutional need-based grants based on institutional financial need as determined by the CSS profile. A student can receive total gift-aid (scholarships/grants from any sources including but not limited to Lehigh University, Gryphon Award, Federal Grants, State Grants, Tuition benefits, and outside foundations and agencies) as long as it does not exceed their total federal need as determined by the FAFSA application. If this occurs, we would need to reduce the institutional need-based grant that you have been awarded. Since there is often a difference between the institutional need (based on the CSS) and the Federal need (based on the FAFSA), it is likely that any changes to your Lehigh Grant would be minimal, if at all. However, since each student's situation is unique, we strongly encourage you to speak with your financial aid counselor if you are interested in becoming a Gryphon to discuss the net financial benefit based on your personal financial aid package.

In addition, the total of all sources of funding cannot exceed a student's total Cost of Attendance for the year. If receipt of the Gryphon Award causes this "over award" federal funds (Direct Loans) must also be reduced.

Q: Will I be able to receive work-study as part of my financial aid package?

A: The room portion of your compensation package replaces the self-help portion of your package, which includes loans and work study. Because of this, we do not offer work study to students who are Gryphons. You may still see loans offered as part of your package, but these are being offered to help finance your expected family contribution and are not being used to meet your needs.

Schedule an appointment with your Financial Aid Counselor

We strongly encourage you to schedule an appointment with your financial aid counselor to determine if the Gryphon award will impact your current financial aid package. Each student has an assigned financial aid counselor who is happy to help you! You can schedule an appointment by clicking on the link below:

[Schedule Appointment](#)