

# University Payment Policy (Effective 6/1/2024)

The following section describes the various payment plan options available to students. It is expected that students will have their bill paid by the end of the add/drop period. Failure to have the balance paid or to be on an adequate payment plan will result in a hold being placed on the student's account.

Dakota Wesleyan University provides several options for paying the gap after institutional scholarships (if applicable) and federal aid are applied. Options include:

1. One-time payment in full.
2. Payment plan proportionate to outstanding balance. \*See further notes on this below.
3. Direct Parent PLUS loan through the Department of Education. This is a loan that a parent takes out and can never be transferred to the student. The loan is based on creditworthiness. If a parent is unable to be accepted for the Parent PLUS loan, the student is then eligible for additional direct unsubsidized loan money.
  - <https://studentaid.gov/plus-app/parent/landing>
4. Private or alternative loan. This is a loan that would remain in the student's name but would require a creditworthy co-signer to apply. Dakota Wesleyan University offers two separate resources in applying for a private or alternative loan.
  - <https://choice.fastproducts.org/FastChoice/home/346100>
  - <https://www.credible.com/student-loans/schools/dwu>

Failure to make an arrangement as described above will result in interest being charged to the student account monthly at the rate of 1%. Any interest charged to a student account is non-refundable.

## **Payment plans proportionate to outstanding balance:**

To qualify for a payment plan, a \$500 down payment is required on all balances over \$2000 with proportionate monthly payments thereafter over a 9 or 10-month period as outlined in the guide included below. Contact the financial aid office to make payment plan arrangements.

Payment plans are initiated through electronic funds transfer from a checking, savings, or credit card account. Due dates can be the 1<sup>st</sup>, or 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. If either of these dates fall on a weekend or holiday, the payment will be made the next business day.

- A failed, or non-sufficient funds (NSF) payment will incur a \$30 charge per payment. After two NSF payments, the payment plan will cease, and a hold will be placed on the student's account until other arrangements are made or a loan is taken to cover the remaining balance.
- Any payment that is late (10-day grace) will incur a \$30 late fee for each payment late.
- Balances that cross academic years will be accessed interest at a rate of 1%. Interest charged to a student account is non-refundable.
- A payment plan does not allow the release of an official transcript from the university. Transcripts will not be released until student accounts are paid in full.

Balances that are not collected when a student exits the university will be turned over to a collection agency for any accounts not paid in full under arrangements set forth by the institution.

The following chart is a guide to acceptable payment plan options. Catch-up explanations are included for those students that may have a hold on their student account.

**Payment Plan Chart**

<b>Balance AFTER Financial Aid is applied</b>	<b>Payment Required</b>	<b>Duration</b>
Up to \$500	Paid in full	1 time payment
\$501-\$2,000	Minimum of \$250	Monthly x9 month
\$2001-\$4000	Minimum of \$400	Monthly x 10 months
\$4001-\$6000	Minimum of \$600	Monthly x 10 months
\$6001-\$8000	Minimum of \$800	Monthly x 10 months
\$8001-\$10,000	Minimum of \$1,000	Monthly x 10 months
\$10,000-\$12,000	Minimum of \$1,200	Monthly x 10 months
\$12,000-\$15,000	Minimum of \$1,500	Monthly x 10 months

Payments are expected to begin in August of the current year and conclude in May. If payments are started AFTER August, back payments will need to be caught up BEFORE any holds on accounts will be lifted. For example, if student balance is \$4,000 and payments are not started until October, back payments for August, September, & October will need to be made BEFORE a business office hold is lifted. If the student is not able to comply with this requirement, they must meet with financial aid to take out a private or Parent PLUS loan. No hold will be lifted until the loan is applied for and certified and/or originated with the Dept. of Ed.

**Late Charge Policy:**

A \$30 charge will be added for any payment returned as non-sufficient. In addition, accounts that are not enrolled in a payment plan as listed above, OR have applied for a loan to cover costs, will incur a monthly fee of \$30 per month in late fees until a proper payment plan or private loan or parent loan is in place.