

Financial Aid for Degree-Applicable Courses

1. What does “degree-applicable courses” mean?

Federal Title IV aid and state financial aid regulations mandate that federal and state aid cannot be awarded for courses that do not count toward a student's academic program (degree-applicable courses). If a student is enrolled in courses that do not count toward his or her degree or certificate, those courses cannot be used to determine enrollment status.

2. Do the degree-applicable regulations apply to all students?

The regulations apply to all students receiving financial aid from federal and state sources.

3. What financial aid programs does this affect?

Federal Title IV aid and state financial aid programs are affected. Federal aid includes the Federal Pell Grant, the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant, Direct Loans, the Federal Perkins Loan, Graduate and Parent PLUS Loans, the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), Federal Work-Study, and Veteran's Benefits. State financial aid affected includes the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship, the Effective Access to Student Education (EASE) Grant (formerly known as Florida Resident Access Grant-FRAG), Florida Work Experience, and the Florida Student Assistance Grant (FSAG).

For information regarding the requirements for these programs, visit nova.edu/financialaid/apply-for-aid/your-financial-aid-award.html.

4. Why do my classes have to be required for my degree in order to receive federal aid?

The federal regulations governing student financial aid indicate that a student enrolled in courses that do not count towards the degree, certificate, or other recognized credential, cannot be used to determine your enrollment status.

5. I am not receiving federal or state aid. Will any of my other aid be affected?

No, only federal and state aid are affected, not institutional aid.

6. How do I ensure that my classes are required for my degree?

Your required classes are published in the student catalog for the year you matriculated and also programmed in the university's online degree evaluation system Degree Works. Your Degree Works audit lists completed, registered, and outstanding requirements. It displays any courses you have registered for that are not required for degree/certificate completion in the “Courses Not Used” section. For more information on Degree Works, visit nova.edu/registrar/degreeworks.html.

7. I am taking electives, are these electives degree-applicable?

Elective classes are degree-applicable up to the number of electives permitted for your degree, as per your program's degree requirements.

8. I am retaking a class; will it be degree-applicable and eligible for financial aid?

Students receiving aid from federal or state sources who wish to repeat a course should review the [Repeat Course Policy for Financial Aid](#) as well as the policies for [Satisfactory Academic Progress \(SAP\)](#). Students should also contact their academic advisor to ensure compliance with academic policies governing the retaking of courses.

9. Are prerequisite classes degree-applicable?

Yes, as long as they are reflected as required courses in your Degree Works audit. If you are taking preparatory coursework as a prerequisite for admission to a graduate program, visit nova.edu/financialaid/eligibility/preparatory-coursework.html for more information.

10. I want to change my schedule; what do I do to ensure my classes will be degree-applicable?

Finalize your schedule no later than a week before the beginning of the semester/term. Your required classes are published in the student catalog for the year you matriculated and programmed in the university's online degree evaluation system Degree Works. Your Degree Works audit lists completed, registered, and outstanding requirements. Degree Works displays any courses you have registered for that are not required for degree/certificate completion in the "Courses Not Used" section. For more information on Degree Works, visit nova.edu/registrar/degreeworks.html.

11. If I am a dual major/dual degree student, what program requirements will be used to verify my enrollment?

Both majors/degrees will be used to verify your enrollment in degree-applicable courses.

12. If I change my major or add a minor before the beginning of the semester/term, will my new major requirements be degree-applicable?

Yes, as long as you officially made those changes before the beginning of the semester.

13. I am an undergraduate student enrolled in 15 credits of which 9 credits are not degree-applicable; will my aid still disburse?

Yes, but your aid will be adjusted based on 6 credits (only degree-applicable credits count). You may lose eligibility for scholarships and grants requiring enrollment in 12 or more degree-applicable credits (9 or more credits for nursing students).

14. Will SharkLink allow me to register for a class that is not degree-applicable?

Yes. Utilize Degree Works in [SharkLink](#) and meet with your academic advisor to confirm you are registering for classes required for degree/certificate program completion.

15. I am a non-degree-seeking special student; do the degree-applicable requirements apply to me?

The degree-applicable requirements only affect students receiving federal or state aid. Some non-degree seeking programs fall under the same degree-applicable requirements as degree seeking. Consult with your academic advisor to verify.

16. I am or will be studying abroad, does this affect me?

Your enrollment abroad must also be degree-applicable if you will be receiving financial aid from federal or state sources. Before financial aid may be disbursed, a Consortium Agreement, or a Contractual Agreement form, listing all courses to be taken abroad, along with the NSU equivalency, must be completed by you, your NSU academic advisor, the host institution's registrar, and the host institution's financial aid office. Any deviation from the listed courses may affect your degree-applicable credits.

17. What semesters/terms does this affect?

All semesters/terms are affected.

18. My advisor has approved a curriculum change. Will my aid still disburse?

Yes. Verify the curriculum change reflects on your Degree Works audit. For more information on Degree Works, visit nova.edu/registrar/degreeworks.html.

19. I have questions specific to my enrollment; whom should I contact?

For questions about your enrollment, contact your academic advisor.

Additional Resources:

- [Satisfactory Academic Progress Information](#)
- [Repeat Course Policy for Financial Aid](#)
- [Things You Need to Know About Your Financial Aid Award](#)