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Frequently Asked Questions



We are here to help!

Starting the transition into dental school can be quite overwhelming. This document serves to provide incoming HUCD students with answers to our most frequently asked questions.

Q: “What days/times are the Office of Admissions open to receive the acceptance deposit? If the office is closed, who is the best person to leave the deposit with?”

A: The Office of Admissions is open when the dental school is open. If the office happens to be closed, the deposit can be left in the Office of the Dean located on the 5th floor of HUCD.

Q: “What does the deposit count towards?”

A: The deposit counts towards the First Year Pre-Doctoral Tuition, specifically \$300 for the enrollment fee and \$700 toward your fees.

Q: “Are scholarships sent out with the acceptance offer letters?”

A: Scholarships are not sent out with an acceptance offer letter. If a student receives a scholarship, it will be noted within the financial aid package.

Brought to you by:

HUCD'S Lead Orientation Ambassadors in conjunction with the Office of Student Affairs, Office of Financial Aid, and the Office of Admissions

Q: "What are the next steps after paying the acceptance deposit?"

A: Completing the background check, filing for FAFSA (HU's code is 001448- there is not a separate code for the dental school), as well as MedProctor should be at the top of your list. A few other things would be to secure your housing, be familiar with the HUCD Policy Manual, and begin to collect teeth for your D2 Endodontics lab.

Q: "For the background check, what are the addresses that need to be put? Do I include my address when I lived on campus?"

A: Please start with your permanent address unless instructed differently.

Q: "Approximately when will I receive my HU ID and bison email address?"

A: Starting April 6, 2020 students should start receiving an HU ID and bison email address. If you are unable to login to your account, use your ID including the @ and for the password it's only the 6 digits of your birth date MM/DD/YY. Please call (202)-806-2705 if you need additional assistance.

Q: "What happens once I complete my MedProctor for Immunizations?"

A: Once MedProctor has received all of your information, it will be sent to Howard University. Once received, you will be put into a queue to have your information reviewed. Be sure to check your emails and MedProctor portal for updates especially if your submitted forms need to be resubmitted.

Q: "How does financial aid work? When do students get packaged for financial aid (around what month)?"

A: The packaging of financial aid for incoming students is targeted to be complete in April/May. The dates of final completion could fluctuate, therefore the timeline is not guaranteed. It is important to note that in order to be packaged, you must complete your [2020-2021 FAFSA](#). In order to be considered for additional aid, scholarships, or the HPSL Loan, you must include your parental information on your FAFSA. Currently, there is no application process for the HPSL at this time therefore students are selected and notified.

Q: "What is the financial aid package usually composed of?"

A: Your aid package (based on eligibility) is usually comprised of:

- o Unsubsidized loan: for an Approximate maximum of \$44,944
- o Grad Plus Loan
- o Trustee Scholarship (Students are notified by College of Dentistry Admissions if they are a recipient). Please note that Financial Aid does not determine the awardees of Dental Scholarships.

Q: "Are there any recommended places where I can apply for scholarships?"

A: Yes, the following are hyperlinks for outside/additional scholarship resources:

[Fastweb](#) , [Goodcall](#) , [NDA Foundation](#) ,
[NHSC HRSA](#)

Q: "What is the difference between a Grad Plus loan and an unsubsidized loan?"

A: The Grad Plus loan is based on a credit check. Students should start applying for the Grad Plus Loan June 1st (this will be a yearly occurrence if the student wishes to continue to take out this loan). The unsubsidized loan is not based on a credit check but the student's loan eligibility. Students may determine if they are within the loan limit of \$224,000 via this link ([click here - NSLDS](#)).

Q: "What's the Official Cost of Attendance?"

A: As of March 13, 2020 the Official Cost of Attendance has not yet been released for 2020-2021.

Q: "When is Financial Aid disbursed and around when should students expect a refund?"

A: Financial Aid is disbursed in August for the Fall Semester, given that the student completed all the requirements. Students can expect to receive refunds towards the end of August/September. The refund timeline depends on the Office of the Bursar as well, so timelines can be clarified with their office. Financial Aid is disbursed in January for the Spring Semester. Students can expect to receive refunds around the end of January.

Q: "I think I need a 'Financial Aid Housing Letter' or a 'Proof of Income Letter for Housing' but I'm not sure who to contact."

A: Financial Aid Housing Letters can be provided to students if they meet certain

criteria. The letters cannot be sent before those criteria are met. (Please note that this is not a Proof of Income Letter. Financial aid refunds are not income, and Financial Aid cannot vouch for it being such. The letter will clearly state it is a Financial Aid Refund and not an income.) Below are the following criteria that must be met:

- Student is enrolled in Fall courses
- Student completed ALL Financial Aid requirements and steps to receive the loans/scholarships
- Student has emailed the request to finaiddental@howard.edu with their student HU ID number.

Q: "I'm having a difficult time figuring out where to live. Do you have any suggestions?"

A: When looking for housing, please be mindful of cost. Finding a place that costs less than \$1400/month would help you financially. Students cannot increase their loans/ refund above what the total cost of attendance allows. This can cause you to run out of your refund and not have any means of financial aid assistance until the next academic year. [HUCD Student Affairs](#) has a list of suggested places on its [website \(click here\)](#).

Q: "Is the curriculum pass/fail?"

A: The grading system is not pass/fail but through a letter grading system:

- A 90 - 100
- B 80 - 89
- C 75 - 79
- F ≤ 74.99999

Q: "I understand I need to have a laptop/device for dental school. Does HUCD require students to buy a specific type of laptop?"

A: All written examinations will be administered via computers, using Examplify and/or Blackboard. Therefore the only requirement is that the device is compatible with both systems especially Examplify. Students can determine if they have the right device by following this link ([click here](#)).

Q: "Is there a certain dress code for the First Year Dental Students (D1s)?"

A: Yes, First Year Dental Students (D1s) are required to wear business casual.

Q: "How late does the dental school stay open?"

A: During the weekdays, the dental school is open until 10pm. On the weekend, the dental school is closed unless it's hosting an event.

Q: "When do students receive the 2020-2021 Academic Calendar?"

A: The Academic Calendar for 2020-2021 has not yet been released. It's usually released closer to Orientation Week/First Week of School and is sent to all students as soon as possible.

Q: "What are the important dates that we should know until the Official 2020-2021 is released?"

A: Orientation week and the first day of classes are two important dates to mark in your calendars. Mandatory Orientation Week will begin Monday, August 10, 2020

(lasting the entire week) and classes start on Monday, August 17, 2020.

Q: "Does HUCD have scheduled breaks during the academic year? What about mission trips during those breaks?"

A: Yes, HUCD has several breaks within the academic year. These breaks include Spring Break in March, a short summer break between the Spring and Summer semester, a longer break between the Summer and Fall semester, Thanksgiving break, and Winter Breaker between Fall and Spring semester. During the summer, HUCD has several mission trips and details about those are released towards the end of the Fall Semester and beginning of the Spring Semester.

Q: "Do dental students receive health insurance? If I already have health insurance, do I still need the school's health insurance?"

A: Yes, all students receive Howard's health insurance. If students have their own insurance, it will be listed as a secondary insurance. Students cannot be exempted from Howard's health insurance.

Q: "I plan on bringing my car with me to dental school. Where should I park for Orientation Week and for school in general?"

A: There is street parking which operates on a first come first served basis. There is also a lot located next to the McDonalds for about \$10/day.