

Questions & Answers about financial assistance

Please read this material carefully and retain a copy for your own files.

How is the Jefferson Academy of Music instructional program financed?

Both Jefferson Academy of Music and its partners are non-profit institutions. *Jefferson Academy of Music* is intended to provide the Central Ohio community with a exemplar and unique music education opportunity. It is important to understand that even full tuition payments cover only about sixty-five percent of the actual costs of providing music instruction. Grants awarded to the Jefferson Academy of Music by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Ohio Arts Council, the Greater Columbus Arts Council, the Columbus Foundation, the Nationwide Foundation, the Erdis Robinson Trust, Reinberger Foundation, along with many other corporate and individual contributors, underwrite administrative expenses and make possible the special benefits and activities of the program - such as financial aid and the availability of an extended payment schedule.

Every student registered in the Academy already receives very significant financial assistance!

Suppose an extended payment schedule would meet our need, what do we do?

In that case, you should still submit the Application for Financial Aid, but omit the information requested in the section on *Financial Information*, and make your request in the *Special Circumstances* section. The tuition for the term will be divided into three payments, with about 40% due a week before the semester starts and the balance in two later payments due on specific dates. We prefer authorization to charge those payments to a Visa, MC, AmEx, Discover cards whenever possible. It is important to note that this form of Financial Aid does not alter the obligation to pay the full tuition for the semester. Refer to our statement on withdrawal/refund policy if the student should decide, for any reason, to discontinue participation during the term.

Who can apply for financial aid?

Anyone who has registered for a *Jefferson Academy* program ***and paid the registration fee*** may apply for financial aid, however the awards are based upon documented financial need. We want the opportunities of the program to be available to everyone, but the funds are limited and requests often exceed available resources. As a general rule, a small family with income less than \$20,000 (or larger families with proportionately more income) or a family with extraordinary medical/educational expenses will be awarded some assistance. **Please note...** it is seldom possible to provide any financial aid to a beginning student where there is no history of whether the child or family will responsibly use the opportunity.

How do we apply for financial aid?

Complete the application on the reverse side and return it by mail or in person to the address provided. It is most important that the proof of income you choose to provide be included in the same envelope. However, **do not send originals**; we cannot return these papers. All this material is treated with strict confidence and retained in our files for future reference.

Why is income documentation necessary?

We find it a reasonable means to fairly weight the competing requests for limited resources. It is also a requirement for certain of our funders who help underwrite the financial aid provided to our students. *Jefferson Academy of Music* is a member of the National Guild for Community Arts Education and shares this policy with most other schools throughout the country.

How much aid are we likely to receive?

There is a significant personal benefit to the participant, so each family must be willing to meet the financial obligations to the extent possible for them. The awards will vary depending upon the particular circumstances of the family, available funds, and the other requests for the period. The awards will always require that the family pay the annual registration fee.

As a general rule, the family will need to pay at least thirty-five percent of the tuition in even the most needy situations.

Additional help: String students who qualify for assistance also receive a reduced rental rate from The Loft Violin Shop.

When and how will we be notified about a decision?

The committee will meet in early August to consider completed applications received by that time. Other requests will normally be considered within ten days after receipt of the completed application. We will attempt to notify you immediately - both about whether there is assistance and the amount - by phone/eMail, in addition to providing a letter for you to sign and return.

What if our family is unlikely to meet the financial criteria, but still feel we require assistance?

There are three options we can suggest. One is that you go ahead and complete the application, but give particular attention to providing details in the *Special Circumstances* section, perhaps providing additional material about why your situation is unusual at this time. A second option would be to inquire at your child's school, church, and similar places about financial or scholarship funds for which you qualify. The third option is to request an extended payment schedule to pay the tuition each term.

Do we have to apply again next year?

Financial Aid is awarded for the current school year only. It is pro-rated over the two semesters - ***contingent*** on satisfactory attendance, participation, progress, and payment of remaining fees. **Renewal is not automatic** and a new application must be submitted each year. A positive recommendation from the instructor is required for financial aid to continue after the first year.

Jefferson Academy of Music

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2018-19 Academic Year • Application for Financial Aid or Extended Payment Plan

This application for financial aid should be completed and returned by mail or in person to the above address. It is essential that the proof of income you choose to provide be included in the same envelope. An incomplete application will delay consideration.

Do not send original documents; we cannot return these papers. All information is treated with strict confidence.

Personal Information: (If applying for more than one child in the same household, attach separate sheet for each, but provide financial info only on one form.)

Student's Name: LAST _____ First _____ Initial _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ eMail: _____

Birthdate: _____ School _____ Grade _____

Home Ph: () _____ Cell Ph: () _____ Work Ph: () _____

Household size: _____ Consisting of the following: _____

Student lives with: ___Both parents ___P/G 1 ___P/G 2 ___Other: _____

Parent/Guardian 1: _____ P/G 2: _____

Address (if different from above) _____

Employer(s) P/G 1: _____ P/G 2: _____

Postition: P/G 1: _____ P/G 2: _____ ce

Work Phone P/G 1() _____ P/G 2() _____

Financial Information (required to receive financial aid): (Whenever income is requested, all income, whether it is taxable or not, must be included.)

Total household income (gross) last year: \$ _____ Medical & educational expenses last year: \$ _____

Anticipated income (gross amt) current year: \$ _____ Anticipated med & ed expenses current year: \$ _____

Verification of the income must be provided by submitting a copy of previous year's tax return, if one has been filed:

___ Federal tax return **or** IRS letter documenting that income is less than a taxable amount (Available by calling 1-800-829-1040)

___ Other verification: ___ Payroll check stubs ___ Welfare forms ___ ADC forms ___ Benefit statement

Does the child receive freereduced price school meals? Yes ___ No ___ Is the household eligible for food stamps? Yes ___ No ___

Special Circumstances: Please consider the following information in evaluating our need for ___ Financial Aid ___ Extended Payments.

I certify that all the information provided above is accurate and complete. I have read and understand the material on the reverse side.

Date: _____ Signature _____

The balance of tuition not covered by financial aid is due in full one week before the term begins, unless other arrangements have been made.

OFFICE USE ONLY

Committee review:

Date received: _____
Application complete? _____
Beginner? ___Yes ___No
Prior Jefferson Academy student? ___Yes ___No
Satisfactory attendance? _____
Satisfactory progress? _____
Satisfactory interest/attitude? _____
Previous timely payments? _____
Prior financial aid? _____

Date committee reviewed: _____
In attendance: _____
Decision: _____
___YES _____ = Amount awarded/semester
___Decision deferred (attach explanation)
___Wait Listed
___Declined (attach explanation))
___Phone notification by _____ on _____
___Notice mailed by _____ on _____