

Financial Aid

Merit Scholarship Policy

Students who receive merit scholarships from Chatham University must maintain at least a **2.0 cumulative** grade point average (GPA) in order for the scholarship to be renewed. Students receiving the Presidential Scholarship or Rachel Carson Scholarship must maintain at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA in order for it to be renewed. Students must be enrolled full-time (at least 12 credits) each term to receive any grants or scholarships from Chatham University.

Academic records for students who receive merit scholarships are reviewed by the Office of Financial Aid after the student has completed at least two terms. If after two terms, the student does not have a cumulative GPA of at least a 2.0 or 3.0, they will be notified in writing that their cumulative GPA is below the required threshold, and that they have one additional semester in which they will still receive the merit scholarship. In the letter, it is indicated that the student must achieve a cumulative GPA of a 2.0 or 3.0 at the end of the third term. If the student does not achieve the required GPA after the third term, the merit scholarship will not be awarded until the student has achieved the required GPA.

Students are only permitted to receive financial aid from Chatham University for a **maximum of eight terms of full-time study or up to 120 credits**. Chatham University financial aid can only be used on study abroad through the semester exchange programs. Eligibility for financial aid from Chatham University is also affected when students enrolled in the Integrated Degree Program (IDP) shift from undergraduate to graduate, as Chatham grants and scholarships cannot be used toward graduate enrollment.

For more information regarding the Merit Scholarship Policy or IDP policy, please contact the Office of Financial Aid at 412-365-2781 or financialaid@chatham.edu.

The Appeal Process

A student whose merit scholarship has been terminated may appeal the decision by:

- 1) Writing a letter explaining the basis for the appeal. The letter should outline the extenuating circumstances that led to the failure to meet the GPA requirements. Please provide supporting documentation from physicians, professors, etc.
- 2) Providing a statement regarding how the student will be able to improve their cumulative GPA.

All statements must be submitted to: Financial Aid Appeals Committee

Chatham University, Woodland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15232

Upon review of the letter of appeal, the student will be notified in writing of the decision. Appeal decisions are reviewed by the Financial Aid Appeals Committee. Filing an appeal is not a guarantee that it will be approved and the scholarship reinstated.