Financial Aid Policy

Policy Statement

The purpose of this policy is to describe the financial aid options available to University of the People ("UoPeople", the "University") admittees and enrolled students, and ensure that best efforts are made to provide financial support so that the inability of an applicant or student to pay the University's application and/or exam processing fees does not serve as a barrier to the attainment of a University education. This policy should be read in conjunction with the University's Payments Policy, where relevant.

University Fees and Financial Aid Options

University of the People is a tuition-free, non-profit institution. Applicants and students are asked, however, to pay modest application and examination processing fees. These processing fees cover the institution’s cost of delivering its educational services.

I. Application Processing Fee

The Application Processing Fee was introduced on May 17, 2011. The University's Application Processing Fee is US $50, but the actual amount to be paid ranges from $10 - $50, according to the applicant's country of residence. University application processing fee grants are based on GDP data publicly available from the World Bank and the CIA World Fact Book, and are updated on an annual basis. The list outlining the application processing fee for each place of residence is set out on the University website in the Enrollment Agreement.

Applicants who cannot afford the cost of the application processing fee due to financial hardship or are unable to pay via the payment methods offered by UoPeople may apply to the University and request an additional grant.

- Applicants who cannot afford to pay due to financial hardship should request a Financial Hardship Grant.
- Applicants who cannot pay via the offered methods of payment should request an Administrative Constraint Grant.
To request a grant, applicants may contact payments@uopeople.edu.

II. Exam Processing Fees

Applicants admitted to study at UoPeople and whose application was created after August 27, 2012, must pay exam processing fees, currently $100 per end-of-course exam. The minimum fees to complete a UoPeople Associate’s Degree program total $2,000 (20 end-of-course exams), and the minimum fees to complete a UoPeople Bachelor’s degree program total $4,000 (40 end-of-course exams).

These fees are the minimum required to complete the degree; they assume that the student will enroll in the minimum prescribed program with no additional electives. These estimates are also based on the successful (one-time) completion of all courses. Students who are required to repeat courses incur added exam processing fees for each additional course taken.

Students are requested to contribute towards the payment of exam processing fees, no matter how small the amount. Students who are not able to pay part or the entire exam processing fee may apply for a scholarship.

III. Scholarship Guidelines

Any individual who qualifies for admission to study at UoPeople and is unable to pay the exam processing fees is eligible to request a scholarship. There are two scholarship options for UoPeople applicants and students:

- **Dedicated Scholarships** – These are scholarships funded by donors and UoPeople partners, and are highlighted on UoPeople’s website at http://www.uopeople.edu/groups/scholarships.

- **UoPeople Scholarship Fund** – This scholarship is funded by UoPeople to assist any student in need of Financial Aid, but is generally used to support Non-degree Special students who are not eligible for a dedicated scholarship.

In order to apply for a UoPeople scholarship, students must first complete their application and be admitted to UoPeople. Scholarship requests may also be submitted by currently enrolled students at the University.

A. To apply for a scholarship at UoPeople, a recent admittee should indicate in their online application that they are in need of financial assistance. Currently enrolled students may contact the University Scholarship Office directly at scholarship@uopeople.edu. An email will then be sent by the Scholarship Office with a link to the currently available scholarships and application forms, which must be submitted online.

B. Scholarship applicants are advised to review the descriptions and limitations of any available scholarships before submitting an application; some of the scholarships are awarded on an annual basis and renewal to support additional years of study is subject to availability of funds.
C. Scholarship requests are reviewed by the Scholarship Office. The Scholarship Committee will meet and review applications at least once every term to guarantee that all applications are processed in the same manner.

D. Partial or full scholarships may be requested and/or granted.

E. More than one scholarship may be assigned to an individual student.

F. Once a scholarship is assigned, the recent admittee or student may use the funds for the next available term. Note that scholarship applicants who commence their studies without full funding run the risk of being placed on financial hold should they not be able to pay all their exam processing fees by the deadline.

G. A student who had scholarship support at the time that they were administratively withdrawn from the University and who requests re-enrollment within two terms will be entitled to request reactivation of their scholarship. The term of withdrawal from the University will count as one of the two terms. A student who was administratively withdrawn from the University more than once will be required to reapply for financial assistance when they return to the Institution.

H. A student who is dismissed or voluntarily withdraws from the University relinquishes all claims to their scholarship. UoPeople has no obligation to save scholarship funds for a particular student.