

## **Financial Aid T4 Permission (Authorization) FAQ**

### **What is the Financial Aid Permission Form?**

The Financial Aid (T4) Permission Form is how a student can authorize George Fox to apply federal financial aid dollars to “non-allowable” costs.

### **What is a “non-allowable cost”?**

The federal government prohibits federal dollars from being used to cover certain costs that are not considered usual and customary. At George Fox these include course fees, charges a department may assess for things like damages or lost items, fines, payment plan set up fees, Degree Completion Portfolio Fees, and charges that are similar to these in kind.

### **What is an “allowable cost”?**

Allowable costs typically include charges that are routinely assessed to all students in a particular program like tuition, student body fees, the Health & Counseling Center fee, and room and board. It typically does not include charges that are individually assessed. If permission is granted, “non-allowable” costs become “allowable”.

### **Can you give an example?**

The Health & Counseling Center fee is assessed to students who are part time or greater and attend in Newberg. That makes it an “allowable cost”. Conversely, if the Health & Counseling Center has a student who does not return a pair of crutches loaned to them, they will assess a charge that is “non-allowable”.

### **What changed to make this a big deal now?**

Effective July 1, 2016 the rules for course fees and books included in tuition changed. Prior to July 1, course fees and books, for some programs, were allowable costs; now they are not. Course fees impact the majority of our students at some point in their program.

The permission form needs to be accepted before aid is disbursed to the account because of a second federal rule. Within 10 days of disbursement, any overpayment of aid is required to be sent out to the student or borrower, regardless of whether they still owe a balance or not. When we send the credit, students who have a past due balance due to non-allowable costs that were not authorized will have holds and be subject to all of the normal penalties for non-payment.

**If I grant permission now, how long is it good for and can I change my mind?**

The student permission granted remains in place indefinitely, unless the student chooses to rescind it. To change your mind, please complete the [“Rescind/Cancel Title IV Student Permissions”](#) form.

**What if I grant permission and then get a fine that I am contesting?**

If an appeal to the appropriate department to waive a fine is successful, the fine will be reversed or reduced as directed and a credit will result. That credit will then be available to you.

**Is this a requirement?**

Granting permission is not required, but highly recommended by Student Accounts. If you choose not to grant permission, your “non-allowable” charges will need to be paid by funds other than federal aid. In this scenario, it is possible that you would be sent a refund for excess federal aid and still have a balance owed. This balance would be subject to our standard late fee and hold policies.

**What about Parent PLUS Loans?**

Parent PLUS Loans are federal funds and similar rules apply, but not entirely. The difference is authorization takes place during the loan application process each year. When applying for funds, the parent is asked whether they want to authorize the loan to cover non-allowable costs. If the parent borrower says yes, it is the same as the student saying yes but it only applies to their loan. Also, unlike the student permission, parent borrowers must answer this question each year when they apply for the Parent PLUS loan.

**I am a parent borrower and I don’t remember my answer to that question.**

If a parent chose “no,” the loan award description in MYGFU will include “NonAuth”. A parent can change their mind by emailing the Director of Student Accounts, Jenny Getsinger, at [jgetsing@georgefox.edu](mailto:jgetsing@georgefox.edu). Simply state your intent and provide your contact info so we can reach you. We will need to speak to you to confirm who you are and your role as the borrower. The change will NOT result in a change in description on the award. It will simply change how the funds are treated on the account for the current academic year. You will have an opportunity the next year to answer the loan application question differently.