

## The Path Forward Program

[The Path Forward Program](#) provides support to eligible first-year students in their academic journeys as they transition into their second year and beyond. Students in the program create individualized plans to succeed at DU by connecting with resources and reaching milestones in their academic journeys.

### **Program participants commit to completing the following steps:**

- Meet with their academic advisor in winter and spring 2023 before registration for upcoming quarters
- Register for 12+ credits for spring 2023 and fall 2023 during registration week (before end of week 9 of each quarter)
- Fill out required financial aid application forms (FAFSA and CSS Profile) by March 15.
- Meet with a student success coach at least once in the winter quarter. Following the initial meeting with an SSC, either schedule a follow-up meeting in the spring quarter or meet the spring quarter requirement by:
  - o Meeting with a career advisor.
  - o If undeclared, meeting with an advisor in a potential major.
  - o Attending a relevant 4D Experience event.

### **Students who successfully complete the Path Forward Program will be eligible for:**

- Priority housing for their second year (must meet certain criteria by March 20). Only the first 150 students to complete the listed criteria will be eligible.
- A Path Forward Scholarship, which can be used for an approved Path Forward summer course at DU in the summer quarter after their first year. Also receive reduced tuition for other summer courses at DU taken the same summer.
- A need-based Path Forward Grant of up to \$2,500 to be awarded for the following academic year. Determined based on financial need (FAFSA and CSS profiles).

## Path Forward Program Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Who is eligible for this program?

A: First-time, first-year undergraduate students who started at DU in fall 2022, who have not yet declared a major or are identified by the university as potential beneficiaries of additional academic support to assist with a successful transition from first to second year. Eligible students will receive an email invitation to join the program.

Q: What happens after I join the program?

A: You'll receive an invitation to the Path Forward Canvas course, where you'll find all the details about the program. You'll receive reminders through Canvas about upcoming opportunities and deadlines related to the program steps.

Q: Do I have to complete the Path Forward program requirements in order?

A: No. Several of the requirements have deadlines, but you do not need to wait to complete one requirement before moving on to the next one.

Q: What is the deadline for registration during registration week?

A: Students must register for 12+ credits before the end of week 9 in each term. Hint: We recommend registering during registration week and not waiting until week 9!

Q: What if I have a hold and cannot register during registration week?

A: Please work with your academic advisor in advance of registration week to ensure that your holds are cleared. You can find your assigned academic advisor [here](#). If you cannot register due to holds, then please reach out through the Path Forward Canvas course to the student success team to assist with this situation.

Q: What are student success coaches?

A: Student success coaches provide undergraduate students with one-on-one opportunities to build skills that support your success at DU. Topics are customized to fit your needs and include the following: goal setting, time management & organization, learning styles & strategies, study skills, test anxiety, major/minor exploration, connecting with campus resources, community building, growth mindset & resiliency, stress management & self-care, and emotional intelligence. [Learn more about the Student Success Coaching Program and meet the coaches.](#)

Q: What do I need to do for my financial aid application?

A: Steps to applying for financial aid can be found [online](#) or on the [2023-24 Financial Aid Application Checklist](#). If you have questions about financial aid, please contact [finaid@du.edu](mailto:finaid@du.edu).

Q: How do I become eligible for priority housing in my second year?

A: In order to be eligible for priority housing in your second year, you must complete several of the Path Forward Program steps: meet with your advisor regarding spring registration, register for 12+ credits in the spring quarter, meet with a Student Success Coach at least one time, and complete your FAFSA and CSS profiles by March 20. Only the first 150 students to complete the listed criteria will be eligible.

Q: What is priority housing selection?

A: Students with priority housing selection will have the opportunity to have an earlier timeslot to select their housing.

Q: Will my roommates also receive priority housing selection? Will my entire group be eligible for priority housing selection?

A: After meeting the necessary Path Forward Program requirements, Path Forward students and their roommate group will be offered priority housing selection. All the students in your roommate group will get the same timeslot.

Q: How does the Path Forward Summer 2023 Scholarship work?

A: The Path Forward Scholarship can be used for an approved Path Forward summer course at DU in the summer quarter after your first year. Path Forward students will also receive reduced tuition for other summer courses at DU taken during the summer quarter after their first year.

Q: How can I get a Path Forward Grant?

A: The Path Forward Grant of up to \$2,500 may be awarded for the 2023-2024 academic year to students with high financial need based on their financial aid applications (FAFSA and CSS Profile) and federal, state, and institutional aid offers. Students must [fill out their FAFSA and CSS Profile](#) by March 15 so Financial Aid can determine eligibility for the grant.

Q: When will I find out if I received a Path Forward Grant?

A: Current DU students that have completed all financial aid application requirements can expect to receive their aid offer via email in mid-June.

Q: I won't be taking courses at DU in fall 2023. Can I still receive the Path Forward Grant in a later quarter, and/or can I still use the Path Forward Summer Scholarship?

A: Students must enroll in fall 2023 in order to be eligible for the Path Forward Grant or summer scholarship.

Q: I didn't get an invite to this program. Can I still participate?

A: The Path Forward Program is only available to eligible first-year undergraduate students who received an invitation from the Office of Student Success. However, we encourage all undergraduate DU students to take advantage of the Student Success Coaching program, to meet with their academic advisor, to engage with the 4D experience, and to register during registration week. The scholarship and grant are only available to eligible traditional undergraduate first-time first-year students.

Q: I'm a student in the Bachelor of Arts Completion Program. Can I join the Path Forward Program?

A: The scholarship and grant are only available to eligible traditional undergraduate first-time first-year students.