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# Illinois 1818 Program Student Physical or Financial Hardship Policy

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**Version:** 1.0

**Responsible University Official:** Provost

**Version Effective Date:** July 1, 2024

## 1.0 Scope

- 1.1 This policy only applies to all current and past students enrolled in 1818 Program dual enrollment courses in partner public and private high schools located in the State of Illinois.

## 2.0 Definitions

*Note: These definitions come from the [Student Debt Assistance Act \(110 ILCS 66/\)](#). These definitions only apply to this policy; these terms may be defined differently for any institutional purpose other than SLU's compliance with this Illinois law.*

- 2.1 **Debt.** "Debt" means any money, obligation, claim, or sum due or owing or alleged to be due or owing from a student to an institution of higher education. "Debt" does not include the fee, if any, that is charged to students by an applicable provider for the actual cost of providing an academic transcript to a student.
- 2.2 **Official transcript.** "Official transcript" means the academic transcript or a similar academic record of each current or former student of an institution of higher education that is deemed official, authenticated, certified, or bona fide and that contains information customarily provided on an official academic transcript, including, but not limited to, courses taken, terms, grades, degrees or credentials conferred, and any other similar information.
- 2.3 **Unofficial transcript.** "Unofficial transcript" means the academic transcript or a similar academic record of each current or former student of an institution of higher education that contains information customarily provided on an official transcript, but cannot be used to transfer academic credits to another institution of higher education.

## 3.0 Policy Statements

- 3.1 SLU will not do any of the following:
- A. Refuse to provide an unofficial transcript to a current or former student on the grounds that the student owes a debt.
  - B. Condition the provision of an unofficial transcript on the payment of a debt, other than a fee charged to provide the transcript.
  - C. Charge a higher fee for obtaining an unofficial transcript or provide less favorable treatment of a request for an unofficial transcript because a current or former student owes a debt.
- 3.2 SLU will provide an official transcript to any current or former student if the current or former student owes a debt if the student requests the official transcript to:
- A. complete a job application;

- B. transfer from one institution of higher education to another;
  - C. apply for State, federal, or institutional financial aid;
  - D. join the United States Armed Forces or Illinois National Guard; or
  - E. pursue other postsecondary opportunities
- 3.3 SLU will not condition the provision of an official transcript to a current or potential employer on the payment of a debt, other than a fee charged to provide the transcript.
- 3.4 SLU will not charge a higher fee for providing an official transcript or provide less favorable treatment for such a request because a current or former student owes a debt.
- 3.5 Students may withdraw from the institution due to a significant financial or physical hardship; types of hardship include, but are not limited to:
- A. serious injury or illness;
  - B. chronic illness;
  - C. a medical issue of a family member in which the student has to become a part-time or full-time caretaker of that family member;
  - D. a mental health condition;
  - E. a sudden or consistent lack of transportation issue; and
  - F. a significant cost of living increase.

The University's withdrawal process and related policies are outlined [here](#). Additionally, students may seek assistance limiting the debt owed to SLU upon withdrawal via an appeal to the Academic Records Revision Committee (AARC); AARC's processes are detailed [here](#). Additional support is provided by the [Office of Student Financial Services](#). All support of students facing such hardship is designed to limit the debt owed to SLU upon withdrawal in a manner consistent with SLU's commitments to academic integrity (including all standards and regulations imposed by other state laws and accrediting agencies).

- 3.6 SLU's withdrawal policies, as well as other academic and student policies, are incorporated by reference in the SLU [Catalog](#), which is provided to all incoming students as part of their orientation to the University.
- 3.7 If SLU chooses to send a current or former student's past due debt to a debt collection agency, the past due debt may not be reported to any credit reporting agencies, except as provided by federal law.
- 3.8 Any current or former student whose official or unofficial transcript or diploma had been withheld in the past due to an outstanding debt may obtain their transcript by contacting the Office of the University Registrar. The Office of the University Registrar must be able to confirm that this policy applies to the requesting student per University records and related information provided by the student.

## 4.0 Approvals

- 4.1 This policy was approved by Provost Mike Lewis: June 27, 2024