

Acceptance of Financial Responsibility Agreement

The following Agreement must be accepted electronically before registration for classes will be permitted for any semester.

I understand that when I register for any class at Columbia College Chicago or receive any service from Columbia College Chicago, I accept full responsibility to pay all tuition, fees, housing charges, meal plan charges, and other associated costs assessed as a result of my registration and/or receipt of services. I further understand and agree that my registration and acceptance of these terms constitutes a contractual agreement (i.e., a financial obligation in the form of an educational loan as defined by the U.S. Bankruptcy Code at 11 U.S.C. §523(a)(8)) in which Columbia College Chicago is providing me educational services, and deferring some or all of my payment obligation for those services, and I promise to pay for all assessed tuition, fees, housing charges, meal plan charges, and other associated costs by the published or assigned due date.

I understand that Columbia College Chicago uses a third-party provider to process all credit card and debit card payments. Credit card and debit card payments are assessed a processing fee of 2.85%, which is due at the time of payment. I also understand that I have the option to pay each semester's balance in full by the published due date or to register for an automated payment plan which requires a non-refundable fee and down payment at the time of establishing the payment plan.

I understand and agree that if I drop or withdraw from some or all of the classes for which I register, I will be responsible for paying all or a portion of tuition and fees in accordance with the college's published tuition refund schedule which is available at www.colum.edu/refund-policy. I have read the terms and conditions of the published tuition refund schedule and of my housing contract, if applicable, and understand those terms are incorporated herein by reference. I further understand that my failure to attend class or receive a bill does not absolve me of my financial responsibility as described above.

Financial Aid: I understand that aid described as "estimated" on my Financial Aid Award does not represent actual or guaranteed payments but is an estimate of the aid I may receive if I meet all requirements stipulated by the relevant aid program and if that program is funded by the grantor. I understand that my Financial Aid Award is contingent upon my continued enrollment and attendance in each class upon which my financial aid eligibility is calculated. If I drop any class before completion, I understand my financial aid eligibility may decrease and some or all the financial aid awarded to me may be revoked. If my eligibility for financial aid changes for any reason, I understand that I am responsible for any charges on my account that were previously covered by financial aid and that I am responsible for repaying any credit balances that were refunded to me. I also understand that unless stated otherwise in a scholarship agreement, any federal, state, and institutional financial aid I receive will be credited to my balance due to Columbia and that I will only be entitled to a refund if permitted by the grantor. I further understand that my receipt of a prize, award, scholarship or grant is considered a financial resource according to federal Title IV financial aid regulations, and may therefore reduce my

eligibility for other federal and/or state financial aid (i.e. loans, grants, Federal Work Study), which, if already disbursed to my student account, must be reversed and returned to the aid source.

Payment Policy: I understand that Columbia College Chicago's payment policy requires that I either pay in full or establish a payment plan for any portion of my bill that is not covered by secured financial aid or third-party benefits on or before the payment deadline for the semester.

Method of Billing: I understand that Columbia College Chicago uses electronic billing (e-bill) as its official billing method; therefore, I am responsible for viewing and paying my student account e-bill according to the college's payment policy. I further understand that failure to review my e-bill does not constitute a valid reason for not paying my bill on time. I also understand that if I fail to receive an e-bill for any reason, I am responsible for logging into my student account and viewing and paying my account balance. My e-bill is available in my student portal.

Billing Errors: I understand that administrative, clerical, or technical billing errors do not absolve me of my financial responsibility to pay the correct amount of tuition, fees, and other associated financial obligations assessed as a result of my registration and/or services received at Columbia College Chicago.

Changes to Curriculum: I understand that changes made to the curriculum or modality of courses does not absolve me of my financial responsibility to pay the correct amount of tuition, fees, and other associated financial obligations assessed as a result of my registration and/or services received at Columbia College Chicago.

Financial Hold: I understand and agree that if I fail to pay my student account bill or any monies due and owing Columbia College Chicago according to the college's payment policy, Columbia College Chicago may place a financial hold on my student account, preventing me from registering for future classes, requesting transcripts, or receiving my diploma.

Cancellation of Class Schedule for Non-Payment: I understand that Columbia College Chicago reserves the right to cancel my class schedule if I do not comply with the college's payment policy.

Returned Payments/Failed Payment Agreements: If a payment made to my student account is returned by the bank for any reason, I agree to pay the original amount of the payment plus a non-sufficient funds/returned payment fee of \$30. I understand that multiple returned payments and/or failure to comply with the terms of any payment plan or agreement I sign with Columbia College Chicago or its affiliated payment plan processor may result in the cancellation of my class schedule and/or suspension of my eligibility to register for future classes at Columbia College Chicago.

Non-Compliance Charge: I understand and agree that if I fail to pay my student account bill or any monies due and owing Columbia College Chicago according to the College's payment policy, Columbia College Chicago will assess a non-compliance fee of \$150 for the semester.

Collection Costs: I understand and accept that if I fail to pay my student account bill or any monies due and owing Columbia College Chicago by the scheduled due date and fail to make acceptable payment arrangements to bring my account current, Columbia College Chicago may refer my delinquent account

to a collection agency. I understand that if my account is referred to a collection agency, I am responsible for paying the \$150 account placement fee which will be added to the monies owed on my delinquent account. I further understand that if Columbia College Chicago refers my student account balance to a third-party for collection, whether an attorney or a collection agency, I will be responsible for any costs (including but not limited to collection fees) associated with attempting to collect the monies due and owing. I understand a collection fee will be assessed and will be calculated at the maximum amount permitted by applicable law but not to exceed 39% of the amount outstanding. For purposes of this provision, the third party may be a debt collection company or an attorney. If a lawsuit is filed to recover an outstanding balance, I shall also be responsible for any costs associated with the lawsuit such as court costs or other applicable costs. Finally, I understand that my delinquent account may be reported to one or more of the national credit bureaus.

IRS Form 1098-T: I agree to provide my Social Security Number (SSN) or taxpayer identification number (TIN) to Columbia College Chicago upon request as required by the Internal Revenue Services (IRS) regulations for Form 1098-T reporting purposes. If I fail to provide my SSN or TIN to Columbia College Chicago, I agree to pay any or all IRS fines assessed as a result of my missing SSN/TIN. I consent to receive my annual IRS Form 1098-T, Tuition Statement, electronically from Columbia College Chicago. I understand that if I do not consent to receive my Form 1098-T electronically, a paper copy will be provided. I understand that I can withdraw this consent or request a paper copy by contacting Columbia Central in writing at columbiacentral@colum.edu.

Method of Communication: I understand and agree that Columbia College Chicago uses my student e-mail account as an official method of communication with me, and that therefore I am responsible for reading the e-mails I receive from Columbia College Chicago on a timely basis.

Contact: I authorize Columbia College Chicago and its agents and contractors to contact me at my current and any future cellular phone number(s), email address(es) or wireless device(s) regarding my delinquent student account(s)/loan(s), any other debt I owe to Columbia College Chicago, or to receive general information from Columbia College Chicago. I authorize Columbia College Chicago and its agents and contractors to use automated telephone dialing equipment, artificial or pre-recorded voice or text messages, and personal calls and emails, in their efforts to contact me. Furthermore, I understand that I may withdraw my consent to call my cellular phone by submitting my request in writing to Columbia Central or in writing to the applicable contractor or agent contacting me on behalf of Columbia College Chicago.

Updating Contact Information: I understand and agree that I am responsible for keeping Columbia College Chicago's records up-to-date with my current physical addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers by updating my contact information through the MyColumbia portal (my.colum.edu) or by submitting an Address Change Form to Columbia Central. Upon leaving Columbia College Chicago for any reason, it is my responsibility to provide Columbia College Chicago with updated contact information for purposes of continued communication regarding any amounts that remain due and owing to Columbia College Chicago.

Student Age: I understand and agree that if I am younger than the applicable age of majority when I execute this agreement that the educational services provided by Columbia College Chicago are a necessity, and I am contractually obligated pursuant to the “doctrine of necessities.”

Governing Law

This Agreement shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the state of Illinois. The parties hereto will use the state of Illinois for jurisdiction and Cook County as the venue for any disputes arising from or in connection with this Agreement.

Severability Clause

If any provision, term, or clause of this Agreement is declared illegal, unenforceable, or ineffective in a legal forum with competent jurisdiction to do so, this Agreement shall be deemed severable, and all other provisions, terms, and clauses of the Agreement will remain valid and binding on the Parties.

Entire Agreement

This Agreement supersedes all prior understandings, representations, negotiations and correspondence between the student and Columbia College Chicago, constitutes the entire Agreement between the parties with respect to the matters described, and shall not be modified or affected by any course of dealing or course of performance. This Agreement may be modified by Columbia College Chicago if the modification is signed by me. Any modification is specifically limited to those policies and/or terms addressed in the modification.