



1098T Tax Form

****We CANNOT give any tax advice, instruction, or suggestions of any kind. You should use the information on your 1098T in conjunction with your own payment records to complete your individual tax return. Please refer your inquiries to your financial advisor or the IRS website for further clarifications.**

Current News:

- Students can log into their Self Service Account to retrieve their 1098-T
- *Prior year tax forms remain online at the SAME site.*
- If your Scholarships/Grants (Box 5) exceeds your Payments Received (Box 1), a 1098-T was not required to be produced.

General Questions:

What is a 1098-T form? (www.irs.gov)

The 1098-T Form reports information on what you paid for Qualified Tuition and Related Expenses (QTRE) at a college or university. All colleges and universities are required by the Internal Revenue Service to provide you with this information. It serves to alert students that they may be eligible for federal income tax education credits such as the Lifetime Learning Credit and the American Opportunity Credit (previously the Hope Scholarship Credit) as part of their federal income tax return. IRS Publication 970, "Tax Benefits for Higher Education," as well as Chapter 35 of IRS Publication 17 (Your Federal Income Tax Guide for Individuals), provide additional information on these credits. There is no IRS requirement that you must claim the tuition and fees deduction or an education credit. Claiming education tax benefits is a voluntary decision for those who may qualify.

The 1098-T contains a combination of student personal data, such as name, address, Social Security Number (SSN), and institutionally provided enrollment data, such as status as a graduate or undergraduate student, along with whether the student was enrolled at least half-time during the calendar year. The IRS will use this data to help determine who is eligible for the educational tax credits.

1098-T's are not produced for everyone in every tax year. The most common reason one would not receive a 1098-T would be because the Scholarships/Grants (Box 5) exceeds the Payments Received (Box 1).

Why isn't there an amount in Box 2?

The IRS no longer allows reporting of amounts billed, therefore this box is blank for ALL students.

What payments are included in Box 1? What are "qualified tuition and related expenses"?

Qualified tuition and related expenses (QTRE) are those that a student must pay that are within the IRS guidelines. Only payments that pay QTRE will show in Box 1. In other words, your total payments made for the calendar year will be limited to the qualified tuition and related expenses (QTRE) for that same calendar year.

I only have amounts in Box 4 adjustments and/or Box 6 adjustments, what does this mean?

Adjustment amounts reported in Box 4 and Box 6, may change any allowable education credit you may have claimed for a prior year. We encourage you to seek the advice of a tax advisor for specific information concerning the handling of prior year adjustments.

When will I receive my 1098-T form?

Federal regulations mandate these items be postmarked no later than January 31st to all eligible students with a valid Social Security number on file and an address in the United States.

Am I eligible for a tax credit?

Employees of Lamar University cannot offer assistance with tax form preparation, nor supply advice on what can or cannot be claimed. Please do not contact the university for that purpose.

The responsibility for your individual tax circumstances rests with the taxpayer alone, and Lamar University is not responsible for your interpretation of this information. You are encouraged to refer to federal Publication 970 from the IRS.

Can my spouse or parent speak to someone in the Office of Student Accounts regarding my 1098-T form?

Due to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), only the student or those persons the student has authorized may contact the Student Business Services department for information or assistance regarding the 1098-T form.

***Please see 1098T Explanation of Boxes on the following pages for more information**

1098T Tuition Statement Explanation of Boxes

Box 1

Payments received for qualified tuition and related expenses.

The total amount of payments made towards qualified tuition and related expenses less any refunds or reimbursements for the calendar year. Payments from all sources are included except those that are restricted to non-qualified tuition and related expenses (housing, meals, travel, etc.). The payments in Box 1 are calculated up to the total amounts billed for qualified tuition and related expenses. Amounts billed for qualified tuition and related expenses are reduced by any waivers/exemptions.

What payment sources are included?

| Included | Not Included |
|--|---|
| Financial Aid Scholarships | Scholarships/Grants for Housing or Meal Plans |
| Grants | Scholarships/Grants for Travel Related Expenses |
| Stipend Payments | Any Payment Restricted to Non-QTRE |
| Contract Payments (Third Party Billing) | |
| Cash, Check, Credit Card | |
| Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans | |
| Direct Plus Loans | |
| Alternative Loans | |
| Less any Refunds or Reimbursements | |

What is included/excluded for qualified tuition and related expenses?

| Included | Not Included |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| In-State, Out-of-State, and International Tuition | Parking Fees and Fines |
| Special Program Tuition | Insurance |
| College Support Assessment Fees | Housing and Meal Plans |
| Institutional Mandatory Fees | Books & Equipment |
| Course Related Fees | Tuition Installment Plan Fee |
| | Late Fee |
| | Application Fee |
| | Travel Expenses |
| | Fees for Non-Credit Courses/Programs |
| | Application & Graduation Fees |

Box 2***Blank on all forms.***

Due to a change to institutional reporting requirements under federal law, beginning with tax year 2018, we will report in Box 1 the amount of QTRE you *paid* during the year.

Box 3***Blank*****Box 4*****Adjustments made for a prior year.***

Shows any adjustment made for a prior year for qualified tuition and related expenses that were reported on a prior year 1098T.

Box 5***Scholarships or grants.***

The total of all scholarships, grants, contract payments (Third Party Billing), or stipends received from January 1st to December 31st, including those for non-qualified tuition and related expenses. *Cost of attendance includes tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, transportation, and personal expenses.

| Included | Not Included |
|--|--|
| Financial Aid Scholarships for Cost of Attendance* | Perkins Loans |
| Grants | Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans |
| Stipend Payments | Direct Plus Loans |
| Contract Payments (Third Party Billing) | Alternative Loans |

Box 6***Adjustments to scholarships or grants for a prior year.***

Shows adjustments to scholarships or grants for a prior year.

Box 7***Future term.***

Shows whether the amount in Box 1 includes amounts for an academic period beginning after December 31st of the reporting period.

Box 8***At least half-time.***

Shows whether you are considered to be carrying at least one-half the normal full-time workload for your course of study at the reporting institution.

Box 9***Graduate student.***

Shows whether you are considered to be enrolled in a program leading to a graduate degree, graduate level certificate, or other recognized graduate level educational credential.

Box 10***Reimbursements/refunds made by an insurer.***

Shows the total amount of reimbursements or refunds of qualified tuition and related expenses made by an insurer.