

What is Financial Aid?

Financial aid is money to help you pay for college. It may be in the form of grants, scholarships, loans, work-study programs, or a combination. The aid comes from federal and state governments, colleges and universities, banks, and private organizations.

Applying to receive financial aid is a separate process from applying for admission to a college; you have to do both. For all government aid, and much private and institutional aid, you apply using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA (see the following pages in this section for more details).



PRIMARY SOURCES OF FINANCIAL AID

Grants	Grants are free money – they don't have to be repaid. Grants come from the state and federal government as well as from colleges. Generally, grants are based on financial need, which means that they are awarded based on your family's size and financial circumstances. One example of a grant is the Pell Grant from the federal government. For 2023-2024, the maximum grant, which is available to students with the most financial need, was \$7,395* To earn a Pell Grant, you must be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen and must complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).
Scholarships	Scholarships are also free money and don't need to be repaid. Scholarships can come from a variety of places, from state and federal governments to colleges and private companies. Scholarships may be awarded based on your financial need, academic achievement, community service, athletic talent, and many other factors.
Loans	Loans are money that you borrow from a bank, government, or private lending company. A loan must be repaid with interest. Loans offered by the government often have lower interest rates and can be repaid over an extended period of time. Visit www.studentaid.gov for more information.
Work-Study	Work-Study allows you to receive funds through part-time employment while you are enrolled in college and can help you pay part of your college costs. Unlike other campus jobs, students apply for Work-Study by submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

**This amount may change every year.*

Sources of Financial Aid

Very few students get all of their financial aid for college from one source. When you are searching for financial aid, consider a wide variety of options and apply to as many programs as possible. Here are some common types of organizations that offer financial aid:

- **Your College:** Colleges and universities offer financial aid programs for their students. Visit the financial aid webpages of every college you are considering and apply for all of the scholarships you think you might be eligible to receive.
- **The Community:** Nonprofit organizations, foundations, and businesses often provide scholarships as a community service. To find these programs, talk to your school counselor.
- **The Government:** The Federal Government offers over \$150 billion in aid each year. Likewise, Tennessee offers millions of dollars to its students. On the next pages, you will find a description of some of the scholarships available from the State of Tennessee.

FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid is money to help your student pay for college. Types of aid available may be in the form of grants, scholarships, loans, work-study programs, or a combination. Aid can come from a variety of sources like federal and state governments, colleges and universities, banks, and private organizations.

Applying to receive financial aid is a separate process from applying for admission to a college; you have to do both. For all government aid, and much private and institutional aid, you apply using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA. This section will help you gain a better understanding of the types of aid available, as well as valuable FAFSA information.

TYPES OF COLLEGE EXPENSES

There are five main categories of expenses to think about when figuring out how much a college education is really going to cost: tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, personal expenses, and transportation. You can control some of these costs to some extent. And when you know how much you'll need to spend on these expenses, it makes it easier to create a college budget.

Tuition and Fees

Tuition and fees are the price for taking classes at a college. This amount can change based on specific academic programs, the number of credit hours taken and whether your student is an in-state or out-of-state student. Some colleges charge "comprehensive fees" — the total for tuition, fees, and room and board combined.

Housing and Meals

Colleges usually offer a variety of residence hall options, as well as meal plans for students who live on campus. The charges vary depending on what plan your student chooses. If your student decides to live at home or off campus, they will have their own rent and meal costs to consider in their college costs.

Books and Supplies

Your student will need books and other course materials. An estimated annual cost for books and supplies for the average full-time undergraduate student at a four-year public college is about \$1,298. You may be able to lower these costs by buying used textbooks or renting them.

Personal Expenses

These include laundry, cell phone bills, eating out, and anything else your student normally spends money on. Figure out what they spend and add that amount to their college budget.

Transportation

Whether your student commutes to campus or takes the occasional trip home, they will have transportation costs. Of course, these will vary depending on how they travel and how often. They may be able to find student discounts on travel costs. Don't forget to factor in the cost of gas if they will be driving a car, and they may need to purchase a parking pass.



Federal Student Aid



What is federal student aid?

Federal student aid comes from the federal government—specifically, the U.S. Department of Education. It's money that helps a student pay for higher education expenses. Federal student aid covers such expenses as tuition and fees, food and housing, books and supplies, and transportation. There are three main types of federal student aid: grants, work-study, and loans.



To Receive Federal Aid or State Aid a Student Must...

- **Be a U.S. CITIZEN or U.S. National**
You are a U.S. citizen if you were born in the United States or certain U.S. territories, if you were born abroad to parents who are U.S. citizens, or if you have obtained citizenship status through naturalization. If you were born in American Samoa or Swains Island, then you are a U.S. national.
- **Have a GREEN CARD**
You are eligible if you have a Form I-551, I-151, or I-551C, also known as a green card, showing you are a U.S. permanent resident.
- **Have an ARRIVAL - DEPARTURE RECORD**
Your Arrival - Departure Record (I-94) from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services must show one of the following:
 - Refugee
 - Asylum Granted
 - Cuban-Haitian Entrant (Status Pending)
 - Conditional Entrant (valid only if issued before April 1, 1980)
 - Parolee
- **Have BATTERED IMMIGRANT STATUS**
You are designated as a "battered immigrant - qualified alien" if you are a victim of abuse by your citizen or permanent resident spouse, or you are the child of a person designated as such under the Violence Against Women Act.
- **Have a T-VISA**
You are eligible if you have a T-visa or a parent with a T-1 visa.

Who gets federal student aid?

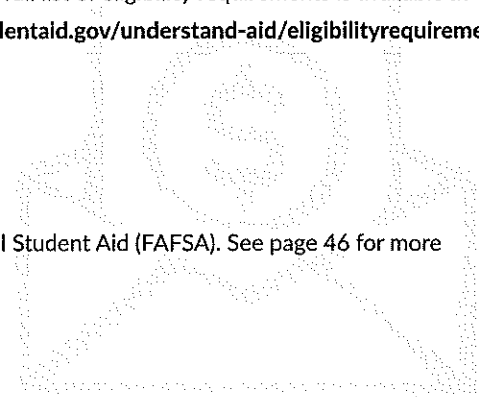
Every student who meets certain eligibility requirements can get some type of federal aid, regardless of age or family income. Some of the most basic eligibility requirements are that you must:

- **Demonstrate financial need, for most programs.**
- **Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen.**
- **Have a valid Social Security number.**
- **Have a high school diploma or a state-recognized equivalent such as a General Educational Development (GED) certificate.**
- **Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in an eligible degree or certificate program.**
- **Maintain satisfactory academic progress in college, career or technical school, or graduate school.**

The full list of eligibility requirements is available at studentaid.gov/understand-aid/eligibilityrequirements

How do you apply for federal student aid?

To apply for federal student aid, you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). See page 46 for more information about how to file the FAFSA.



What Types of Federal Student Aid are Available?



The following chart outlines the most common types of federal student aid:

PROGRAM AND TYPE OF AID	PROGRAM INFORMATION	AWARD AMOUNT (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)
<p>Federal Pell Grant</p> <p><i>A grant does not need to be repaid.</i></p>	<p>For undergraduates with financial need who have not earned a bachelor's or professional degree.</p> <p>StudentAid.gov/pell-grant</p>	<p>Amounts can change annually. For 2023-2024, the maximum award amount was \$7,395</p>
<p>Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)</p> <p><i>A grant does not need to be repaid.</i></p>	<p>For undergraduates with exceptional financial need; federal Pell Grant recipients take priority; funds depend on availability at a school.</p> <p>StudentAid.gov/fseog</p>	<p>Up to \$4,000</p>
<p>Federal Work-Study</p> <p><i>Work-Study is money earned through a job and doesn't have to be repaid.</i></p>	<p>For undergraduate students, part-time jobs can be on campus or off-campus. Money is earned while attending school.</p> <p>Your total work-study award depends on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When you apply - Your level of financial need - Your school's funding level <p>StudentAid.gov/workstudy</p>	<p>No annual minimum or maximum amounts</p>
<p>Federal Loans</p> <p><i>A loan must be repaid with interest.</i></p> <p><i>Before you take out a loan, it's important to understand that a loan is a legal obligation that makes you responsible for repaying the amount you borrow with interest. Even though you don't have to begin repaying your federal student loans right away, you shouldn't wait to understand your responsibilities as a borrower.</i></p> <p><i>To find out what your potential student loan payment might be, visit the loan simulator at: https://studentaid.gov/loan-simulator/</i></p>	<p>Subsidized Loans: The U.S. Department of Education generally pays interest while the student is in school; the student must be enrolled at least half-time. StudentAid.gov/sub- unsub</p> <p>Unsubsidized Loans: The borrower is responsible for interest during all periods, including while the student is enrolled. A student must be enrolled at least part-time. StudentAid.gov/sub- unsub</p> <p>Direct PLUS Loan: For parents of dependent undergraduate students; the borrower is responsible for interest during all periods, including while the student is enrolled; a student must be enrolled at least half-time; financial need is not required; the borrower must not have adverse credit history. StudentAid.gov/plus</p>	<p>Subsidized Loans: Up to \$5,500 depending on grade level and dependency status.</p> <p>Unsubsidized Loans: Up to \$12,500 (less any subsidized amounts received for the same period) depending on grade level and dependency status.</p> <p>Direct Plus Loan: Maximum amount is the cost of attendance minus any other financial aid received.</p>