

A photograph of a modern building with large glass windows. The windows reflect the surrounding environment, which includes trees with vibrant autumn foliage in shades of yellow, orange, and green. The sky is clear and blue. The building's structure features dark, cylindrical columns and a grid of window frames.

Financial Aid 101



OFFICE OF
FINANCIAL AID
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Discussion Topics

- **What Is Financial Aid?**
- **College Costs and Planning Tools**
- **Financial Aid Eligibility**
- **Types of Financial Aid**
- **Applying for Financial Aid**
- **Next Steps**
- **Tips for Students and Families**

The information presented is based on current circumstances and is subject to change. Please refer to specific schools/institutions for additional information.



What Is Financial Aid?



Financial aid is funding from various sources used to pay college expenses.

What Is Financial Aid?

Financial aid IS NOT funding for:

- Credit cards
- Shopping
- Buying a car
- Partying
- Spring break/vacation

College Costs and Planning Tools

The Cost of Attendance Includes Direct and Indirect Costs

Direct Costs

- Paid DIRECTLY to the university and include:
 - Tuition & fees
 - Food & housing

Indirect Costs

- Paid to others, and can include:
 - Books, course materials, supplies, and equipment
 - Miscellaneous personal expenses
 - Transportation

College Costs and Planning Tools

U-M Cost of Attendance

	In-State	Out-of-State
Tuition & Fees**	\$ 17,736	\$ 60,946
Living Expenses‡	\$ 15,328	\$ 15,328
Books, Course Materials, Supplies & Equipment	\$ 1,158	\$ 1,158
Transportation	\$400	\$400
Misc. Personal	\$ 2,310	\$ 2,310
TOTAL	* \$ 36,932	* \$ 80,142

* This is the maximum amount of financial aid you can receive.

** Tuition and fees listed are based on approved rates for the 2024-2025 academic year. Rates are approved each June by the U-M Board of Regents and estimated budgets are updated at that time. Tuition and fees may be higher or lower depending on a student's program of study; these estimated budgets use information from the College of Literature, Science and the Arts. Current tuition information is available through the Office of the Registrar.

‡ Based on the unlimited basic residential meal plan.



College Costs and Planning Tools



Planning tools

[finaid.umich.edu/tools-resources/
planning-tools-calculators](https://finaid.umich.edu/tools-resources/planning-tools-calculators)
[#comparing-financial-aid-offers](https://twitter.com/comparing-financial-aid-offers)



College Scorecard compares colleges from around the country

collegescorecard.ed.gov



College Costs and Planning Tools

Net Price Calculator

- A free, interactive tool that provides estimated net cost
- Uses institutional data
- Calculates individual situations
- npc.collegeboard.org/app/umich



Federal Student Aid Estimator

- Free federal tool
- Early estimate for federal student aid
- Offers options to pay for college
- studentaid.gov/aid-estimator/



Financial Aid Eligibility

What is the Student Aid Index (SAI)?

Formerly known as the Expected Family Contribution (EFC), the SAI is a number resulting from a student's and family's financial resources.

- Calculated using a federal formula with information from the FAFSA
- Parent contribution and student contribution
- Amount a family can reasonably expect to contribute
- The same at every institution

Financial Aid Eligibility

Calculating Financial Need

Cost of Attendance (Budget)	\$26,000
Student Aid Index (SAI)	- \$ 4,000
Other Aid or Resources (such as private scholarships)	- \$ 0
Your Need for Aid	= \$22,000


Types of Financial Aid

1



Free money.

2



Borrowed money.

3



Earned money.

Types of Financial Aid

Gift Aid

- **Scholarships**

- May or may not be need-based
- Earned in some way: grades, skills, service, etc.
- Awarded by a variety of organizations
- May or may not require FAFSA and/or other applications

- **Grants**

- Need-based
- Must complete FAFSA to apply
- May require other applications such as the CSS Profile or other institutional forms

Types of Financial Aid

Watch for scholarship scams

- Required application fees
- No contact telephone number
- Unsolicited opportunities
- Hype or pressure to participate
- Scholarship services that guarantee success
- Social Security number or banking information requested

More information:

studentaid.gov/resources/scams



Types of Financial Aid

Understand your scholarship

- **One-time award vs. a renewable award**
 - If renewable, are there requirements?
 - Minimum GPA requirement
 - Major specific
 - Requires full-time enrollment
- **Tuition-specific scholarship**
- **What is the value of the scholarship?**
 - Full ride vs. partial (will you have remaining costs?)

Types of Financial Aid

Go Blue Guarantee

- Free U-M tuition for four years
- Must qualify for in-state tuition and be earning first bachelor's degree
- Family income of \$75,000 or less and assets below \$75,000
- Must apply and be eligible for financial aid
- More information: goblueguarantee.umich.edu/ann-arbor
- Eligibility: finaid.umich.edu/go-blue-guarantee-eligibility



FREE TUITION

for families with incomes \$75,000 & under
& assets below \$75,000

Tuition support for some families earning more

Four years for qualifying in-state students on the Ann Arbor campus



Types of Financial Aid



Self-Help Aid Work-Study

- Need-based
- Earn a paycheck for work
- Flexible work schedules
- Consider on or off-campus opportunities

Students who are not eligible for Work-Study may still apply for other jobs

Types of Financial Aid

Self-Help Aid Loans

- Borrowed Money
- Repayment begins after graduation
- Federal Loan eligibility for student borrowers is determined by completing the FAFSA
 - **Federal Subsidized Direct Loans:**
 - Need-based
 - Interest does not accrue until repayment begins
 - **Federal Unsubsidized Direct Loans:**
 - Non-Need-Based
 - Interest accrues when borrowing begins



Applying for Financial Aid



OFFICE OF
FINANCIAL AID
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Completing the FAFSA: Where

An official website of the United States government. Help Center Submit a Complaint English | Español

Federal Student Aid
AN OFFICE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

FAFSA® Form ▾ Loans and Grants ▾ Loan Repayment ▾ Loan Forgiveness ▾


A Better 2024–25 FAFSA® Form

The 2024–25 FAFSA form is now available. We've started sending submitted applications to colleges and states. [Learn more about 2024–25 FAFSA updates.](#)

2024–25 FAFSA® Form

[Start New Form](#) [Access Existing Form](#)

Need to access last year's form? [Edit a 2023–24 FAFSA Form](#)




Check FAFSA® Deadlines for the State You Live in

Some states and colleges use information from the FAFSA form to determine your eligibility for their grants, scholarships, and loans. Check your state's deadlines here!

Missing a state deadline does not impact your eligibility for federal student aid, so fill out your FAFSA form even if your state deadline has passed.

School Year State of Residence [Find Deadlines](#)

[View All FAFSA Deadlines](#)



Complete the FAFSA

It's free, easy, fast, and more students qualify for Federal Student Aid than you may think.

<http://studentaid.gov/h/apply-foraid/fafsa>

Completing the FAFSA: When



FAFSA: studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa

- Free application
- State, federal, and private financial aid resources



CSS Profile: cssprofile.org

- \$25 application fee
 - Need-based U-M grants and scholarships
-
- **FAFSA** - Typically, available October 1. **2025-2026 application expected on or before Dec.1**
 - **CSS Profile** – Available October 1

Completing the FAFSA: How

Important Documents and Steps

- Create your FSA ID in advance
- Have available:
 - 2023 Tax Return
 - Bank/asset statements
 - Child support information(paid or received)
 - Other untaxed income information
- Income data will be transferred using the IRS Direct Data Exchange on the FAFSA

Completing the FAFSA: Why



Why should you complete the FAFSA?

- Student Aid Index (SAI) determines your financial aid eligibility
- Gain access to multiple sources of aid
- List multiple schools on your application

Completing the FAFSA: What

FAFSA: What should I expect?

- Multiple sections are for student information
- Invite parents, also called FAFSA contributors, to add their information directly to the application
- “As of today” language



Completing the FAFSA: Who

- **Each Student**
 - Parent data can be transferred for multiple children
- **FAFSA Contributor(s)**
 - Both parents (biological, step-parent, adoptive) if married
 - Only one parent if single, divorced, or separated (the parent that provides the most financial support to the student)
 - If both parents live in the same house and are not married both incomes go on FAFSA

Dependent vs. Independent

FAFSA: Dependent vs. Independent

- **Dependent** *most students
 - Parental information is required
- **Independent**
 - No parental information required if:
 - Married
 - At least 24 years old
 - At any time since you turned age 13, both your parents were deceased, you were in foster care, or you were a Ward of the Court/State
 - Have a dependent that you provide more than 50% support for
 - Homeless

(Sample of questions on the FAFSA that determine independent student status.)

Important Dates



When should you complete the FAFSA?

- FAFSA is an annual application. File it every year!
- Fill out the **2025-2026 FAFSA** as soon as possible
- Check with each school for individual deadlines

U-M requires the FAFSA & the CSS Profile

- Suggested filing date - **Dec. 15**
- U-M priority deadline - **March 31**

The State of Michigan deadline is May 1.

Applying for Financial Aid

Frequent FAFSA Errors

- Incorrect school code – If applying to U-M Ann Arbor, be sure to select UM-Ann Arbor school code: 002325
- Social Security numbers
- Divorced/remarried parental information
- Student/parent income
- Real estate & investment net worth
- Work-Study preferences

Next Steps

What's next?

- Make necessary FAFSA corrections
- Complete institutional forms
 - CSS Profile, if required
 - Scholarship applications
 - Verification
- Submit requested documentation (Federal Tax Transcripts, W-2s, etc.)
- Estimated Financial Aid Notices will be sent in early 2025
 - Based on initial calculated need
 - Not binding, simply an offer

Next Steps

Reporting Special Circumstances

- Special Circumstances cannot be reported on the FAFSA
- Change in employment, death, marital status, one-time significant benefit, large out-of-pocket medical expenses, etc.
- Send an explanation of special circumstance to each financial aid office
- All special circumstances will be reviewed, and a FINAL decision will be made*

If you have an unusual circumstance where parental data cannot be provided on the FAFSA, contact the Office of Financial Aid about your options.

*The Department of Education does not consider appeals



Tips for Students and Families



- **Consider payment plans**
- **Know before you Go Blue!**
- **Satisfactory Academic Progress**
- **Apply for scholarships every year**
- **Meet all deadlines**
 - Check & respond to your email
 - Check & respond promptly to requests
- **Problems/issues**
 - Talk to the experts on campus

Thank You

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Outreach Unit

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