



**COLLEGE
NOW**

YOUR FUTURE. **OUR MISSION.**

Site: Fairview
Date: Sept.28
Time: 6pm

Welcome!

26-27 Funding your Future Presentation

Our Mission

To increase access and completion of higher education by providing integrated college and career advising, financial aid counseling, scholarships and retention programs that empower student success – strengthening the region's talent pipeline and economic prosperity.

**All attendees must
sign-in!**

Agenda

- Welcome & Sign-In
- College Costs
- Financial Aid
- FAFSA Introduction



Key Objectives

- Provide a high-level overview of financial aid for postsecondary education.
- Describe the financial aid application process and timeline.
- Summarize recent changes to Federal Student Loan borrowing limits.
- Highlight useful planning tools.



Staff and School Services

College Now at HS

- Pamela SAndoval
- Innovation Lab
- Every other Monday
- psandoval@collegenowg.org
- Make an appt. thru School Counseling office

Services

- FAFSA Completion
- Post-secondary planning
- Academic advising
- Essay feedback
- Scholarship applications
- ACT and SAT Test Prep
- + much more!

Paying for College

What to Know



- Financial Aid is **SEPARATE** from College Application Process
- Different forms of financial aid may have different eligibility requirements or stipulations for renewal.
- You must re-apply for financial aid each academic year by completing the **FAFSA**.
- Meeting all your deadlines **EVERY YEAR** is key to full-financial aid consideration.

Ex. Ohio State University

Admission & Financial Aid Deadlines



Now	Contributors create StudentAid.gov Account
Oct 1	Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Opens
Nov 1	Early Action (EA) Application Deadline
Dec 12	Admissions Decision Released - EA
Jan 15	Regular Decision (RD) Application Deadline
Feb 1	Financial Aid Priority Deadline + ScholarshipUniverse
Mar 5	Admissions Decision Released (RD)
May 1	Enrollment Deposit Due

College Costs

Cost of Attendance (COA)



Cost of Attendance = Direct Costs + Indirect Costs

- **Direct Costs** are expenses paid directly to the University.
- **Indirect Costs** are ESTIMATED out-of-pocket expenses that are not paid directly to the University.

Tuition + Housing + Meal Plan
= **Direct Costs**

Books + Supplies + Transportation
+ Personal Expenses + Misc.
= **Indirect Costs**



Indirect Costs

Budgeting Beyond Tuition

When examining the COA for a particular program, be sure to consider the following:

- Mandatory Food Plans or On-Campus Residency
- Major Specific Fees
- Travel/Commute (Parking, Gas, Transit Pass, etc.)
- Start-Up Costs
- Course Supplies/Technology
- Off Campus Housing (**40%** higher within 2-miles of campus)
- Convenience Surcharge on basic goods (**20-40%** more!)
- Loan Fees + Interest

Introduction to Financial Aid

What is Financial Aid?

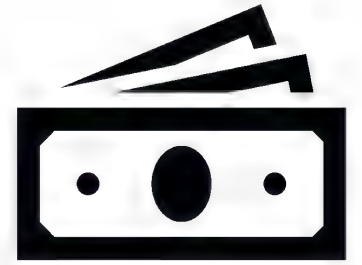


FAFSA is the **Free Application for Student Aid.**

The application is used by the government, universities/colleges, certificate programs, and scholarship organizations, to help determine how much money to award students in **scholarships, grants, work study, and loans.**

These funding sources make up **financial aid** and help make college and career programs more affordable for students of all ages.

Types of Financial Aid

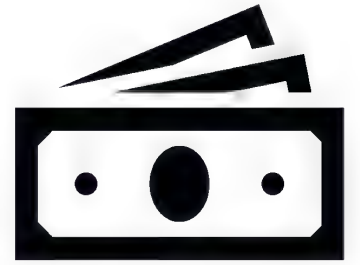


Federal and State Grants	Federal Student Loans	Merit-Based Scholarships
Outside Scholarships	Institutional or Private Loans	Need-Based Scholarships

Some forms of financial aid are FREE; some are NOT FREE.

Types of Financial Aid

Grants and Scholarships



Federal/State Grants – Grants and Scholarships do not need to be paid back. Some are awarded automatically from the state/federal gov upon completion of the FAFSA.

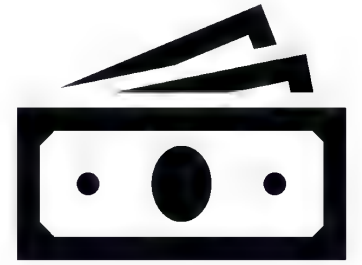
Merit-Based Scholarships – Awarded based on academic record, transcript, and test scores. Many schools offer these to eligible students automatically upon acceptance. May require an online or in-person interview.

Outside Scholarships – Private awards that students apply for. Provided by community organizations, scholarship foundations, alumni, and other donors. Often competitive or have narrow eligibility criteria.

Need-Based Scholarships – Awarded based on demonstrated financial need as determined by specific criteria (AGI, Student Aid Index, Pell-eligibility, or funding gap.)

Scholarship Resources

Think Big & Small



College Now Scholarship Database – Local and National scholarship opportunities, sorted by deadline.

Cleveland Foundation Scholarships – Local scholarship application for 50+ awards of varying amounts and eligibility requirements. Opens in Winter.

College Now Traditional Scholarship – Must attend College Now served High School. Opens in October.

Big Future Scholarship Database – National scholarship database with information on thousands of one-time and renewable awards for students at every academic level.

College Now Website

<https://www.collegenowgc.org/find-scholarships/>

- Apply for the **College Now Scholarship**
- Apply for Scholarships **Managed by College Now** –
Cleveland Foundation and Others
- Search for **Outside Scholarships**

College Now Scholarship

- Need-based scholarship
 - **Must qualify for the Federal Pell Grant to apply**
- 2.5 GPA & 960 SAT score (18 ACT)
- Must be recommended by advisor
- Application will be available at the end of 2026 or early 2027
- Additional essays can create additional opportunities for money

Cleveland Foundation

- Must Complete a FAFSA
 - **you do not have to be Pell Grant eligible**
- Have a 2.0 Cumulative GPA
- 30 scholarships in one application



Visit Scholarships

Free Money for Visiting Campus

- **Baldwin Wallace** – \$2,000/year for 4 years if you have an official visit before December 2nd
- **John Carroll** – \$2,000 if you visit and apply by November 1st
- **Ashland** - \$1,000 if you visit by July
- **Ohio Wesleyan** - \$1,000/year for 4 years if you visit by December 15th
- **Mount Union** - \$1,000/year for 4 years
- **Tiffin** - \$1,000 – visit and file FAFSA by February 1, 2026

Choose Ohio First



Example: Baldwin Wallace

- Applicants must be Ohio residents with a minimum high school GPA of 3.0 and plan to begin their enrollment at BW in the fall 2027 semester (full-time or part-time), pursuing one of the following majors:
- Biology, chemistry, communication sciences and disorders, community health education promotion, computer science, cybersecurity analyst, data analytics, data science, engineering, environmental science, exercise science, mathematics, neuroscience, nursing, physics, pre-allied health/pre-physical therapy, public health - including the primary healthcare advancement program (PHAP) and software engineering.
- Applications are available and will be accepted beginning November 1, 2025.
- Award up to \$8,000

Test Scores Can Increase Your Scholarship

ACT		36	35	34	33	32	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	TEST OPTIONAL
SAT		1600-1570	1560-1530	1520-1490	1480-1450	1440-1420	1410-1390	1380-1360	1350-1330	1320-1300	1290-1260	1250-1230	1220-1200	
HIGH SCHOOL CUMULATIVE GPA	4.0+	\$8,000									\$7,000			\$6,000
	3.9-3.5	\$7,000											\$4,500	
	3.49-3.2	\$3,000												
	3.19-3.0	\$1,000												



Full-Ride Scholarships for High Achieving Students

- **University of Toledo** - \$28,000/year for 4 years. Must have 3.8 GPA and submit admission application by October 15th. Scholarship application is due November 1st.
- **Miami Presidential Fellows** - Covers tuition and room and board. Complete Common App before December 1st and indicate interest in Honors College and Presidential Fellows program to be considered.
- **Ohio Northern Mathile Scholarship** - Students with a minimum ACT score of 30 (1360 SAT, evidence-based reading and writing plus math) and a minimum high school GPA of 3.5 are eligible to apply for this full-tuition scholarship. To apply, a student must submit an application for admission and be accepted by January 1. After a review of all applications, a group of finalists will be invited to complete an on-campus interview with the selection committee. Two students will be selected and offered full-tuition renewable scholarships.

Bowling Green Pathway Program



- **Enhanced advising** - You'll meet with your Pathway advisor frequently to discuss your first-year experiences in and outside the classroom.
- **Frequent communication** - You've been supported by your family, and when you enroll, we welcome yours into ours. We'll communicate not just with you, but with your support system at home when needed.
- **Discounted tuition** - A lower tuition charge for your first year is automatically reflected on your account — no additional scholarship application is needed! Traditional costs will resume in your second year. Pathway tuition is \$8,264 for the first year. Increases to \$14,482 in year 2. Housing costs are additional.

Regional Campuses – Tuition Comparison

	Main Campus Tuition	Regional Campus Tuition	Housing Available?
The Ohio State University	\$13,641	\$9,772	On Campus dorms or student apartments
University of Cincinnati	\$14,394	\$7,416	Blue Ash has access to main campus housing
Kent State University	\$13,445	\$7,607	Not Available



**THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY**

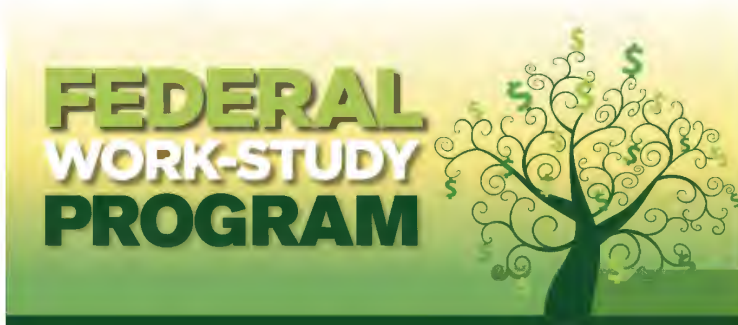


Free Tuition Programs - Based on FAFSA Results

	How to Qualify	Main or Regional Campus
The Ohio State University Regional Campus	Adjusted Gross Income under \$100,000	1st year on regional campus then transferred to main campus
University of Cincinnati	Adjusted Gross Income under \$65,000	Main or regional campus
University of Akron	Adjusted Gross Income under \$85,000	Main or regional campus

EARNED MONEY:

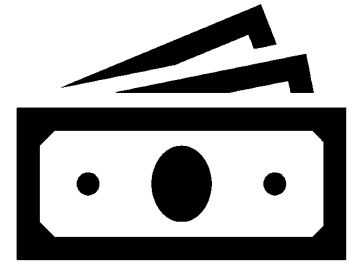
Federal Work-Study



- On-campus employment
 - ❖ Some colleges also offer community-based opportunities
- Students must search for available jobs, apply, and interview
- Payment comes to the student in the form of a direct deposit to the student's bank account
 - ❖ Few students apply it to their tuition; most use it for personal expenses
- Students will not be penalized on the next year's FAFSA for funds earned from a work-study position.

Types of Financial Aid

Loans



Federal Student Loans – Offered by the Department of Education. Varying loan types, interest rates, and repayment plans available depending on type of student, program level, plan of study, dependency status, and credit history (PLUS loans only). **Loan steps are available in student's StudentAid.gov account following successful completion of FAFSA.** Some students will be eligible for federal student loan repayment/forgiveness.

Private/Institutional Loans – Offered by banks/lenders, including some colleges and universities. Depending on creditworthiness, these loans may have higher interest rates, fewer options for deferment, and less flexible repayment plans. **These loans are not eligible for income-driven repayment or federal forgiveness and cannot be discharged in bankruptcy.**

Federal Student Loans

Undergraduate Loan Types



DIRECT Subsidized – Available to independent and dependent students, up to \$3,500 the first year of college, at a 6.52% interest rate. Does not accrue interest while enrolled.

DIRECT Unsubsidized – Available to independent and dependent students, up to \$2000 the first year of college, at a 6.52% interest rate. Accrues interest while enrolled.

Parent PLUS – Available to eligible parents of undergraduate students, can apply for up to \$20,000 the first year of college, depending on **Financial Need**, at a 9.07% interest rate.

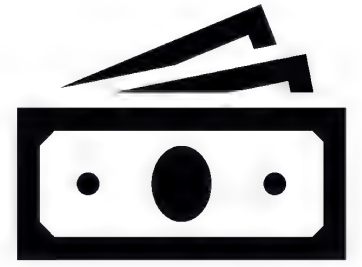
Financial Need

$$\text{Cost of Attendance} - \text{Student Aid Index} = \text{Financial Need}$$

- Borrowers are limited in how much they are eligible to borrow in Federal Student Loans based on their dependency status, year in college, and Cost of Attendance.
- Students can only borrow **SUBSIDIZED** loans based on financial need. Students without financial need will only be eligible for **UNSUBSIDIZED** federal student loans.
- Not all financial aid is free; **Loans can be a costly choice.**

Undergraduate Loan Limits

Dependent Student is Borrower

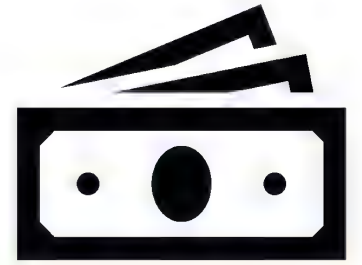


Dependent Student Loan Limits					
Type of Loan	First-Year Annual Limit	Sophomore Annual Limit	Junior Annual Limit	Senior Annual Limit	Lifetime Limit
Subsidized Loan (6.52%)	\$3,500	\$4,500	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$23,000
Unsubsidized Loan (6.52%)	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$8,000
Totals	\$5,500	\$6,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$31,000

- The lifetime limit for all Federal Student Loan Borrowers, REGARDLESS OF PAYMENT OR DISCHARGE = **\$257,000**

Other Loan Limits

Parent PLUS – Parent is Borrower



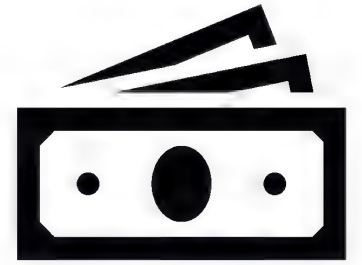
Direct Parent PLUS Loans Limits

Type of Loan	First-Year Annual Limit	Sophomore Annual Limit	Junior Annual Limit	Senior Annual Limit	Lifetime Limit
Unsubsidized Loan (9.07%)	Up to \$20,000	Up to \$20,000	Up to \$20,000	Up to \$20,000	\$65,000

- Parent must demonstrate creditworthiness - no recent adverse credit.
- Parent retains legal responsibility for paying the loan for the lifetime of the loan.
- Only repayment options are Standard Plan or Repayment Assistance Plan.
- Interest Rate is subject to change yearly.
- Parents **CANNOT EXCEED** \$65,000 per **STUDENT**.

Other Loan Limits

Graduate – Student is Borrower



Graduate Loans Limits		
Type of Loan	Annual Limit	Lifetime Limit
Unsubsidized Direct Loan (8.07%)	Up to \$20,500	\$100,000
Professional Degrees Unsubsidized Direct Loan (8.07%)	Up to \$50,000	\$200,000

- Eligible Professional Degree programs **ONLY** include pharmacy, dentistry, veterinary medicine, chiropractic, law, medicine, optometry, osteopathic medicine, podiatry, theology, and clinical psychology.

2027-2028 FAFSA

Free Application For Federal Student Aid

- Opens **October 1, 2026.**
- Completed on [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov)
- Uses Last-Last Year Tax Filings (2025)
- Must be completed accurately, by school-specific deadlines.
- Must be completed yearly for financial aid.

How Much \$\$\$ Will I Get?

Federal Student Aid Estimator

<https://studentaid.gov/aid-estimator/>

- Available before the official FAFSA Application, this tool allows senior families to estimate their SAI in just 5-10 minutes.
- Can grant insight into potential Pell-eligibility (up to \$7395 per academic year).
- Can be used with Net Price Calculator to estimate Cost of Attendance.
- Requires estimates of 2025 student and parent financial information.

Applying for Financial Aid

Class of 2027:



1. Determine your contributors.
2. Contributors* create accounts on StudentAid.gov.
3. Complete Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
 - Send to all colleges you intend on applying to
4. Review FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS)
5. Complete CSS Profile – **only if required**
 - Colleges in Ohio that Require a CSS Profile: Case Western, Oberlin, Kenyon, Wooster, Denison, Cleveland Institute of Music, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine
6. Provide Verification of financial information – **only if required**
7. Receive Financial Aid Award Package – **only if admitted**

Who is My Contributor?

- **Married Parents (filed jointly):** Report information for one parent
- **Married Parents (filed separately) and Parents Living Together:**
Report information for both parents
- **Parents Not Living Together:**
Report information for the parent who financially supported student the most in the past year
 - ❖ **If Parent is Remarried:**
Also report information for your stepparent

The following people are **NOT** your parents unless they have legally adopted you:

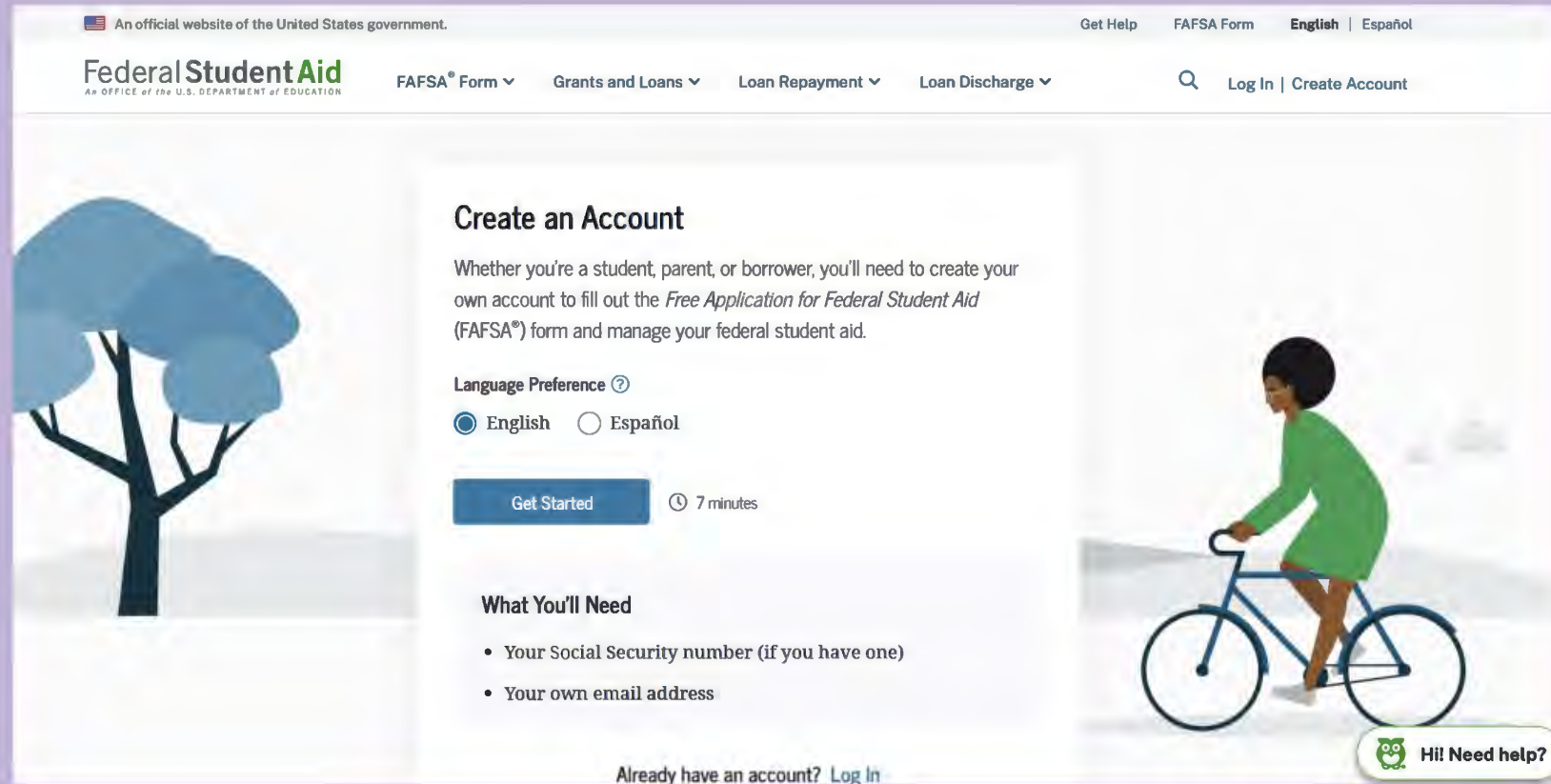
- Widowed Stepparent
- Grandparents
- Foster Parents
- Legal Guardians
- Older Brothers or Sisters
- Aunts or Uncles

On the FAFSA, Parents are called Contributors!

Creating a StudentAid.gov account

Items Needed:

- Personal Email Address
- Social Security Number, if you have one
- Valid ID, in case you are selected for Identity Verification



Student Aid Index (SAI)

A number calculated by the Dept. of Education based on the information provided in the **FAFSA**. Range is -1500 to 999999

Formula: Cost of Attendance – SAI = Federal Financial Need

The SAI will not change from one college to the next.

Tips and Reminders!



- Ensure you are completing the application for the correct academic year: **2027-2028 FAFSA Form.**
- FAFSA will open by **October 1.**
- Complete the FAFSA as soon as you can for full scholarship consideration. **Stay organized!**
- Before the FAFSA opens, find your contributors and create your StudentAid.gov account using your **personal email.**
- After FAFSA has processed, **download your FSS.**

After You Complete the Financial Aid Paperwork



- 1. Verification
- 2. Special circumstances
- 3. Award letters

If you have had any of these circumstances since you filed your 2025 tax return...

Job layoff

Reduction in hours worked

Medical, dental, or nursing home expenses not covered by insurance

Divorce or separation

Critical illness or disability in your family, causing a reduction in income or increased medical expenses

Death in your family

Income from a rental property, court settlement, or alimony that is no longer available.

...you may be eligible for an adjustment to your financial aid.

Award Letters

Compare AWARD LETTERS for:

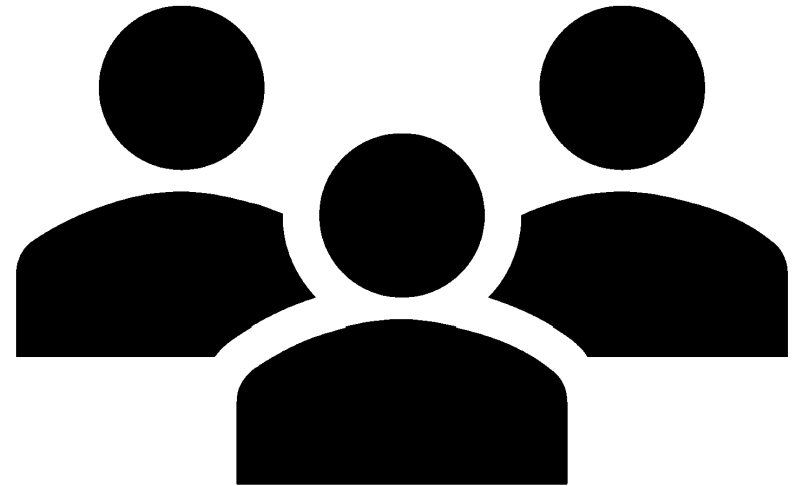
- Gift Money
- Earned Money
- Borrowed Money
- ***Unmet Need and True Cost of Attendance***

	School A	School B	School C
Cost of Education	\$50,000	\$39,000	\$22,016
• Presidential Scholarship	\$10,000	\$10,000	
• Leadership Award	\$1,000		
• Institution Grant	\$11,000	\$10,000	0
• Federal Work Study	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
• Federal Direct Student Loan – Subsidized	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
• Federal Direct Student Loan – Unsubsidized	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500
	\$12,500	\$6,500	\$6,500
Net Cost to Attend (Cost minus Aid)	\$32,055	\$22,500	\$15,516

Questions? Meet with us!

Some ways we can help:

- ✓ Submitting the FAFSA with confidence!
- ✓ Navigating website glitches
- ✓ Identity verification
- ✓ Interpreting the FSS
- ✓ Searching for scholarships
- ✓ Comparing financial aid awards



Thank you!



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Pamela Sandoval
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