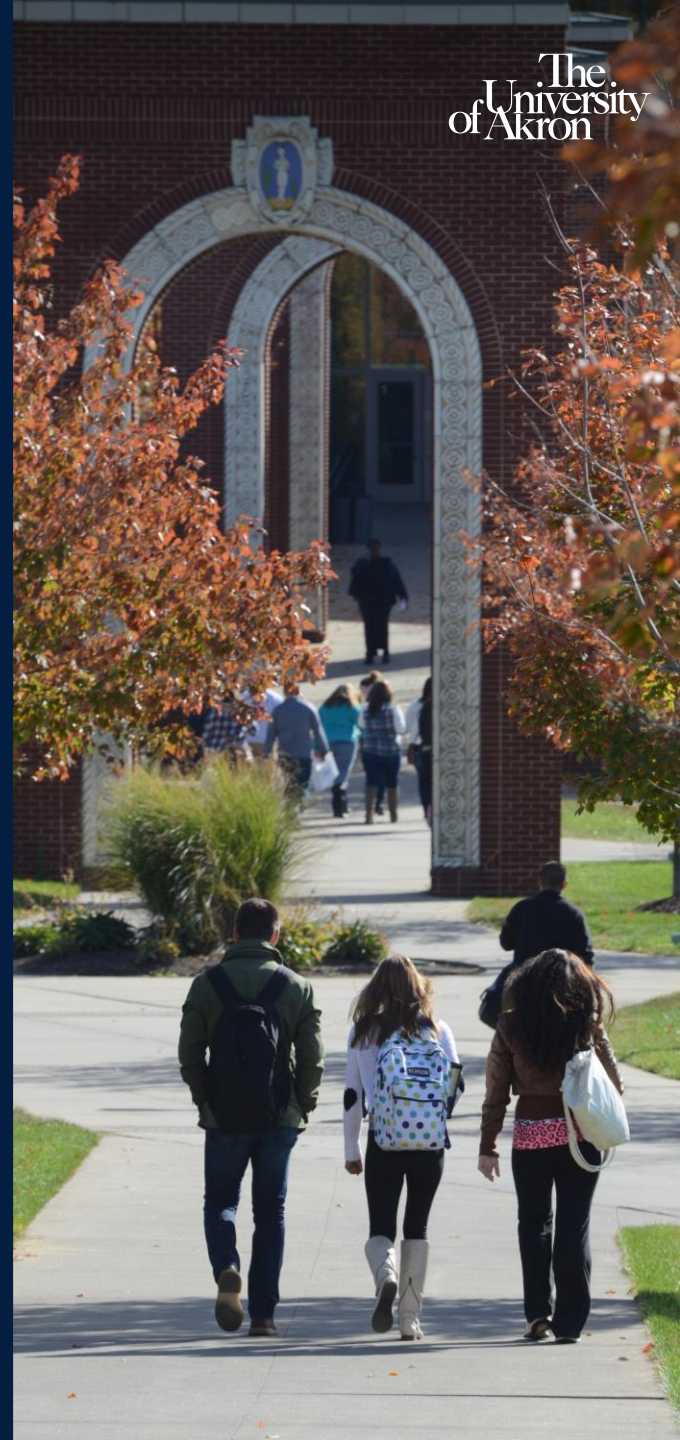




Introduction to Financial Aid

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What is Financial Aid?



Financial Aid is a broad group of funding sources that assists students in meeting the cost of attending college and can include grants, scholarships, the work-study program, and student loans.

Types of Financial Aid

Gift Aid	Description
Grants	Awarded by federal and state government
Scholarships	Awarded by a variety of sources including the University, community groups, businesses, etc.
Self-Help Aid	Description
Student Employment/Federal Work Study	Money earned while working part-time on campus
Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loans (student)	Low interest loans, repaid by the student after graduation
Parent Loans (PLUS)	Loans that parents borrow, repaid by the parent after graduation or while the student is in school
Private Loans	Loans that students borrow (often needs a cosigner), repaid after graduation
Payment Plans/529 College Savings	Some institutions offer payment/installment plans or families may have college savings plans to assist with costs.

Federal Aid

U.S. Department of Education

Grants (free money)

- Federal Pell Grant
- Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)
- TEACH Grant

Federal Work-Study

- Part-time employment opportunities for students with financial need. Funds earned are paid directly to the student for educational expenses.





State Aid

Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE)

- Ohio War Orphans Scholarship
- Ohio Safety Officers College Memorial Fund
- Ohio College Opportunity Grant

www.ohiohighered.org

Scholarship

Resources

- Universities and Colleges
- High school counselors
- Private foundations, businesses, charitable organizations
- Civic organizations, employers, credit unions



Scholarship Search Sites

- www.sallie.com
- www.scholarshipowl.com
- www.niche.com
- www.fastweb.com
- www.clevelandfoundation.org

Federal Direct Student Loans

Subsidized Direct Loan

- Interest free during periods of at least half-time enrollment
- Six-month grace period before repayment begins
- Current interest rate when repayment begins is 6.39%
- Student is the borrower and begins repaying after graduating or leaving college.

Unsubsidized Direct Loan

- Accrues interest during periods of enrollment
- Six-month grace period before repayment begins
- Current interest rate is 6.39% and begins immediately
- Student is the borrower and begins repaying after graduating or leaving college.

Parent Loans

Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS)

- Parent is the borrower—not the student
- May borrow up to \$20,000 per year
- Current Interest rate is 9.07%
- Interest begins accruing as funds are disbursed
- May choose to defer payments while student is in school
- May have remaining funds (after school charges are paid) sent to the student for other educational expenses (books, supplies, transportation, etc.)
- Credit-based, may use an endorser if initially denied
- If parent is ineligible, student will have additional eligibility from the Unsubsidized Direct Loan



How Do I Apply for Financial Aid?

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.studentaid.gov

This application is used for federal and state grants, federal work-study, federal student and parent loans.



The FAFSA is anticipated to be available **October 1**

Important FAFSA Notes

- Tax information will be loaded directly from your federal income tax return from 2025.
- All contributors will be required to give consent for their tax information to be imported into the FAFSA.
- Students can list up to 20 school choices to receive their FAFSA results.
- Students whose parents are divorced, will report the income for the parent (and stepparent if remarried) who provided the majority financial support, NOT the parent that they lived with for the past twelve months unless that parent provided the majority financial support.



Student Aid Index (SAI)

- The Student Aid Index (SAI) is determined by the FAFSA
- The federal methodology is applied to information reported on the FAFSA to determine this index number.
- The SAI determines grant eligibility and financial need.
- Financial Need is:

Cost of Attendance

– SAI

– Other Financial Assistance (OFA)

= Financial Need



- Financial need is used to determine student loan eligibility, parent loans, federal work study, and some scholarships.

Everyone Needs an FSA ID!

- ✓ This will serve as your legal signature on federal financial aid documents and the FAFSA.
- ✓ Go to www.studentaid.gov.
- ✓ Click on **Create Account** and review the information about what you can do with your account and what you need.
- ✓ Click on **Get Started** and create your account.
- ✓ You will need a permanent email, mobile-phone number, and social security number.
- ✓ Create your FSA ID **NOW**, don't wait.



Application Process

Start

**Complete
the FAFSA**

Government
Processes
Application

School receives
FAFSA results

School requests any
additional
documents needed

**You submit
documents**

School
determines
awards

**Financial
Aid
Offer!**

Financial Aid Offer



- Schools will likely begin sending financial aid offers in early spring.
- Will arrive either by U.S. Mail to the student's home or email to the student's college or university assigned email address.
- Award notifications are sent to students, not parents.
- Offer will include estimated costs and all types of financial aid being offered to the student for the year (at that time).

Billed by the school



Cost of Attendance

Not billed by the school



Examples of Costs at Schools

Private Four-Year University

Tuition and Fees	\$42,000
Room and Board	\$15,044
Total	\$57,044

Public Four-Year University

Tuition and Fees	\$14,146
Room and Board	\$13,396
Total	\$27,542

Community College

Tuition and Fees	\$3,709
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What if I don't receive enough aid?

- Payment Plans
- 529 College Savings Plans
- Private Educational Loans
- Employment
- Appeal for a special circumstance such as a loss of income or job.



REMINDERS

- Don't pay to file the FAFSA or for scholarship info!
- Read everything sent to you by the financial aid office.
- Turn in requested documents in a timely manner.
- Finalize everything by May
- Call the financial aid office if you have any questions.



Any
Questions

