

Need money for college?

THE 4 BASIC TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID



Grants

Grant money is typically based on you and your family's financial situation. They **DON'T** have to be repaid, as long as you meet the requirements.



Scholarships

Scholarship money is typically awarded based on your accomplishments. It **DOESN'T** have to be repaid, as long as you meet the requirements.



Work-study

Work-study programs offer career-related work experience, allowing you to earn money while working throughout the school year.



Student Loans

Student loans **MUST** be repaid. There are various types of student loans, and some have better terms than others. It is important to research and fully understand what you are agreeing to before taking out a loan. Consider the future.

1. Grants

A grant is merit-based or need-based financial aid and requires you to submit supporting evidence. When you're eligible for a grant, you won't have to pay it back. Typically, as long as you stay in school and meet the necessary requirements, a [grant stays as free money](#).

Examples: [Pell Grant](#), [TEACH Grant](#), [WA College Grant](#)

2. Scholarships

Just like grants, [scholarships](#) are a type of financial aid that you won't have to pay back under most circumstances. Scholarships may also be need-based (dependent on financial need) or merit-based. Most of the time, you'll need to have a minimum GPA, demonstrate a skill, have membership in a specific group, and/or choose a specific major for a merit-based scholarship.

Examples: [Merit-based scholarships](#), Scholarships for minority groups, Athletic scholarship, Religious and community group scholarships

Scholarships for specific communities and groups:

- The Cascadia College Foundation Scholarship for Cascadia Students: <https://www.cascadia.edu/finaid/scholarships.aspx>
- BIPOC Scholarship from Point Foundation: <https://pointfoundation.org/scholarships/bipoc>

- Pride Foundation Scholarships: <https://pridefoundation.org/find-funding/scholarships/>

3. Work-study programs

The [Federal Work-Study Program](#) allows you to earn money to pay for school by working part-time, either on campus or off campus. You'll earn at least the current federal minimum wage. However, you may earn more depending on the type of work you do and the skills required for the position. Your total work-study award depends on when you apply, your level of financial need, and your school's funding level. You may be limited in the number of hours you are allowed to work, as the amount you earn cannot exceed your cost of attendance.

4. Student loans

A [student loan](#) is a fixed amount of money that you borrow and pay back according to a schedule (typically monthly). When you receive a student loan, you are borrowing money to attend a college or career school. You must repay the loan as well as interest that accrues. Key elements of a student loan include:

- **Principal:** The original amount that you borrowed.
- **Interest rate:** The cost of the money that you borrow, usually expressed as a percentage.
- **Repayment term:** The life of the loan: how long it takes you to pay it all back.
- **Monthly payment:** The amount that you send to your lender every month. This payment depends on the interest rate and repayment term of the loan.

When you borrow from the Department of Education, you take out a [federal student loan](#).

A federal subsidized loan covers your interest payment while you're in school and defers your payment up to 6 months after graduation.

If you have to take out a loan, you should first seek a federal subsidized loan and only then consider a federal unsubsidized loan. When the lender is an organization other than the DOE or a state organization, then you're typically taking a private student loan.

How does a grant or scholarship affect my other student aid?

A grant or scholarship will affect your other student aid because all your student aid added together can't be more than your cost of attendance at your college or career school. So, you'll need to let your school know if you've been awarded a scholarship so that the financial aid office can subtract that amount from your cost of attendance (and from certain other aid, such as loans, that you might have been offered). Then, any amount left can be covered by other financial aid for which you're eligible. Questions? Ask your financial aid office.

What if I didn't receive enough financial aid? <https://studentaid.gov/articles/financial-aid-not-enough/>

Want to learn more about financial aid?

UW Bothell Office of Financial Aid <https://www.uwb.edu/financial-aid/>

Cascadia College Financial Aid <https://www.cascadia.edu/finaid/>

Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) <https://studentaid.gov/>

Washington Student Achievement Council (WASFA) <https://wsac.wa.gov/wasfa>

National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
https://www.nasfaa.org/about_financial_aid