Carnegie Mellon is dedicated to helping you navigate the financial aid process.

We encourage you to familiarize yourself with the contents in this guide, as you'll find answers to many of the questions you may have regarding financial aid, including:

- What is financial aid?
- How is my eligibility determined?
- How do I apply for financial aid?
- What types of aid are available to me?

Besides answers to these questions, this guide also covers information regarding federal and private loans, payment plans, loan counseling and important dates.

Continue the Conversation

We're here to help if you have questions about financial aid. For personalized support throughout the financial aid process, please contact us at 412.268.2082 or admission@andrew.cmu.edu. You can also find more information at admission.enrollment.cmu.edu/pages/financial-aid.
Cost of Attendance for 2020-2021 Academic Year

Tuition $57,560
Fees 1,364
Room and Board 15,550
Books/Miscellaneous 2,400 (estimate)
Transportation Variable
TOTAL: $ 76,874+

How We Determine Your Financial Aid

Eligibility for Financial Aid

We determine eligibility for federal and state financial aid programs through a formula called Federal Methodology. It uses student and parent/guardian total taxable and untaxed 2018 income, current equity in assets that you were required to report on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), as well as size of household and number of individuals enrolled in college at least half-time to determine the amount you're expected to pay toward your education: your Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

We determine eligibility for institutional grant financial aid programs like the Carnegie Mellon Undergraduate Grant (page 5) through a formula called Institutional Methodology. This is based on both your CSS Profile and your tax documents. All aid applicants must use College Board's IDOC portal to submit signed copies of student and parent/guardian 2018 tax returns and legible copies of W-2 forms. We require the CSS Profile because we believe each parent or guardian has a financial responsibility to contribute to their child's educational expenses, even in cases of divorce or separation.

Financial Need

After we confirm your EFC, we calculate your financial need:

\[
\text{Financial Need} = \text{Cost of Attendance} - \text{Expected Family Contribution}
\]

Cost of Attendance is the sum of direct and indirect costs to attend Carnegie Mellon for an academic year.

Financial Aid Offer

To help meet your financial need, we may offer a combination of awards that comprise a financial aid offer. Most of these offers have two components: gift aid and self-help. Gift aid includes grants and need-based scholarships that we give to the applicant and don't require repayment. Self-help awards are funds you must apply for and either repay (student loans) or work for (student employment).
NOTE: If your EFC is greater than the cost of attendance, Carnegie Mellon won't offer you financial aid. You or your parent(s) or guardian(s) may still apply for non-need-based aid, such as the Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan and the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan (page 7).

Financial Aid Offer Letter

Once your financial aid offer has been determined, we'll send an offer letter to your mailing address. This letter contains important information and instructions regarding your financial aid offer. If this offer changes at any point throughout the academic year, you'll receive a revised offer letter. You can also view a copy of your most recent offer letter by logging into your Where Am I in the Process? portal at s3.andrew.cmu.edu/aio/wai.

Noncustodial Parent Contribution

If your parents are divorced or separated, we define the noncustodial parent as the parent who either provides less than half of your financial support or has lived with you the least over the past year. The Noncustodial Parent Contribution is calculated using the CSS Profile. In order to be considered for institutional funding, the CSS Profile is required for both parents who don't share the same household. The noncustodial parent isn't required to submit copies of their tax documents.

Missing Financial Aid Documents

For a complete list of required and received financial aid documents, please log on to your Where Am I in the Process? portal, or after you've enrolled, visit Student Information Online (SIO) at cmu.edu/hub/sio. You should also check your email regularly for requests for additional information. If you don't submit all requested documents and finalize your financial aid application, we can't complete your financial aid offer.

Federal Title IV Verification

Title IV aid is a group of federally funded programs including Pell Grants and Federal Direct Student Loans (see page 5). The federal government determines your eligibility for this aid when you complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Each year, the U.S. Department of Education requires that Federal Title IV applicants provide documentation to verify their information on the FAFSA. Verification is required for applicants for most Federal Student Aid programs with the exception of students receiving only a parent PLUS loan or an unsubsidized Federal Direct Student Loan. Each university is required to have policies for verifying the reported information.

At Carnegie Mellon, federal verification is performed on all applicants selected by the Department of Education and any application that the university has reason to believe is incorrect or has conflicting information. In addition to federal verification, the university completes an institutional review of all first-year undergraduate students applying for aid.
A Strategy for Financing Your Educational Expenses

Apply for All Financial Aid

You'll be considered for all Carnegie Mellon grants after submitting the FAFSA, CSS Profile and all required tax documents via IDOC. To be eligible for financial aid, you must be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident or DACA recipient.

The balance remaining after subtracting any financial aid awarded to you can be addressed in several ways. You may wish to pay in full or via a payment plan when you receive your invoice. We recommend that you consider the following options to determine which resource or combination of resources best suits your needs.

1. Federal Direct Student Loan. For financial aid applicants, this is the cornerstone of any borrowing that takes place at Carnegie Mellon. The Federal Direct Student Loan is a low-interest student loan with very favorable repayment terms. For more information, see pages 6-7.

2. Payment plan. You may wish to consider a payment plan. The plan allows you to pay amounts due to the university in installments. A variety of other benefits are provided at no extra charge, including life insurance to cover the bill payer. Information regarding a payment plan can be found on page 6. If you determine that the payment amount is greater than you're able to pay, you may want to supplement this plan with educational loans.

3. Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan. This is a non-need-based loan provided by the Department of Education to creditworthy parent(s) or legal guardian(s). See page 7 for more information.

4. A combination strategy to limit debt. For many borrowers, combining the payment plan and loan option of your choice is the best strategy. Making use of these programs together will permit you to limit debt while allowing for reasonable payments.

This guide seeks to help students and families find the best financing option using the above resources, combined with current income, assets and savings. We hope you find the strategies and information provided to be helpful in determining what works best for you.
Your financial aid offer may include grants, need-based scholarships, student loans and student employment. Eligibility is based on both the Federal and Institutional Methodology formulas (see “Eligibility for Financial Aid” on page 2 for more information).

FEDERAL GRANTS

Federal Pell Grant
A Federal Pell Grant is awarded by the federal government to students with high federal financial need. The maximum Pell Grant awarded for the 2020-2021 academic year was $6,345. If you become eligible for a Federal Pell Grant after your aid offer is determined, a dollar-for-dollar reduction to your Carnegie Mellon need-based grant funds will occur.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)
A Federal SEOG is a grant for undergraduates with exceptional financial need. Carnegie Mellon usually awards these grants to students who receive a Federal Pell Grant. If your family’s EFC changes and your SEOG eligibility is reduced, your grant assistance will be adjusted accordingly.

CARNEGIE MELLON UNDERGRADUATE GRANT
A Carnegie Mellon Undergraduate Grant is awarded by Carnegie Mellon to students who have financial need. Once you complete and submit the requested financial aid forms — FAFSA, CSS Profile and signed copies of 2018 federal tax documents from the student and parent(s) or guardian(s) — you’ll be considered for this grant. All tax documents must be submitted via College Board’s IDOC service.

STATE GRANTS
Visit cmu.edu/sfs/financial-aid/types/scholarships-and-grants for the list of states that permit their grants to be used in Pennsylvania.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Carnegie Mellon Endowed Scholarships
Carnegie Mellon doesn’t award merit scholarships. Students receiving need-based financial aid may receive an endowed scholarship, which names a portion of their Undergraduate Grant to recognize a generous Carnegie Mellon donor. For more information about these scholarships, visit cmu.edu/sfs/financial-aid/types/scholarships-and-grants/endowed.html.
Outside Scholarships
If you receive outside scholarships, they'll be used to meet your unmet financial need and, where applicable, offset or reduce loans and work-study. Visit cmu.edu/sfs/financial-aid/types/scholarships-and-grants/outside.html for detailed information on outside scholarships.

PAYMENT PLAN
The payment plan gives students the ability to pay amounts due to the university in convenient installments. This isn't a loan. There are many benefits to this plan including life insurance for the payer. These benefits are paid for by a per-semester fee. Visit cmu.edu/sfs/billing/payments/monthly-plan for more information.

STUDENT LOANS
Student loans are self-help awards that must be repaid. Carnegie Mellon participates in several loan programs, including Federal Direct Student Loans, Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loans and private education loans. We'll process any loan from any private lender. Visit cmu.edu/sfs/financial-aid/types/federal-loans for more information.

Federal Direct Student Loan
A Federal Direct Student Loan is a loan provided by the Department of Education. There are two types of Federal Direct Student Loans — subsidized and unsubsidized. The 2019-2020 interest rate for subsidized and unsubsidized loans is 4.53%. There's also a 1.059% origination fee.*

Federal Direct Subsidized Loan
A Federal Direct Subsidized Loan is provided by the Department of Education to students with financial need. You begin repaying the loan six months after you graduate or when you cease to be enrolled at least half-time (18 units per semester). The interest on a subsidized loan is paid by the federal government while you remain enrolled at least half-time.

* This interest rate is accurate as of January 1, 2020. To view updates regarding interest rates, visit The HUB website: cmu.edu/sfs/financial-aid/types/federal-loans/direct.
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan

A Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan may be available to students who don't qualify, in whole or in part, for a subsidized loan. Students who are eligible for the subsidized loan may also borrow an additional amount from this program because it's not based on financial need. Unlike the subsidized loan, you have the choice to pay the interest that accumulates on the unsubsidized loan every three months while you're in school or have the interest added to the principal amount at time of repayment. If you choose to add the interest to the principal amount, note that this will increase the amount you have to repay.

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans may not be included in a financial aid offer, though students may be eligible to borrow them. If you're interested in borrowing the unsubsidized loan, please reach out to the Office of Admission.

Federal Direct Entrance Loan Counseling

Federal regulations require that all first-time federal student loan borrowers complete an online entrance counseling session before Federal Student Loan funds are credited to their student accounts. During the entrance counseling session, you'll be informed of your rights and responsibilities as a borrower.

Carnegie Mellon won't process your Federal Direct Student Loan until you complete the entrance counseling session. Please complete the Federal Direct Entrance Loan counseling session at studentloans.gov.

Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan

A Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan is a non-need-based loan from the Department of Education and is credit-based. The interest rate is 7.079% and there's a 4.236% origination fee. Full repayment of principal and interest begins 60 days after the last disbursement for the loan period. The maximum repayment period is 10 years. For more information, visit cmu.edu/sfs/financial-aid/types/federal-loans/plus.

Private Loans

Private loan programs offer competitive interest rates and various borrower benefits. To increase chances of approval and possibly improve the rate you receive, students are strongly recommended to apply with a creditworthy co-signer. For more information, visit cmu.edu/sfs/financial-aid/types/private.html.
STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

There are many student employment opportunities on campus, both need-based and non-need-based. Students can search for campus jobs via a system called Handshake. Newly enrolled students will have access to Handshake beginning in July. Students who wish to seek campus employment through Handshake are required to create a resume. Resume assistance is available through the Career and Professional Development Center (CPDC). For more information about the CPDC, visit cmu.edu/career.

All undergraduates who are employed by Carnegie Mellon track their time worked using a system called Workday and are paid on a biweekly basis. Students have the option to have their pay directly deposited into a local checking or savings account. The authorization form may be found on the Payroll website cmu.edu/finance/forms. Please note that earnings from student employment, including work-study and federal community service, aren’t automatically credited to student accounts. For more information, visit cmu.edu/sfs/student-employment.

OTHER BORROWING COMPARISONS

To compare a wide range of borrowing options in addition to the combination of grant assistance, loan and employment options listed above, please visit admission.enrollment.cmu.edu/pages/types-of-aid.

Veterans Benefits

Carnegie Mellon participates in the Yellow Ribbon Program for those who are 100% eligible for benefits under the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill.

In order to use Veterans Education Benefits, you must be an admitted Carnegie Mellon student. Veterans Affairs determines the amount of benefits a student can receive; therefore, we cannot estimate benefit amounts. Please contact the VA at 1.888.442.4551 to find out the amount you’re eligible to receive.
I’m a prospective student and I still haven’t submitted my actual 2018 federal tax returns, but I’ve received a financial aid package anyway. Do I still need to submit my federal tax returns to you?

Yes. You must submit the actual 2018 tax documents via College Board’s IDOC service in order to confirm your institutional financial aid package. Although you’ve received a financial aid offer, it’s subject to change until we receive and review your actual tax documentation.

My student aid report says I was “selected for verification.” What does it mean and what should I do?

The U.S. Department of Education requires colleges to “verify” students applying for aid by randomly selecting students for federal verification. Carnegie Mellon will ask for confirmation of the data provided on your financial aid applications. We'll verify all undergraduate students selected for verification by the Department of Education and any student with inconsistent or conflicting information. The applicant data that must be verified includes household size, number of family members in college, adjusted gross income, wages, taxes paid and untaxed income.

How is the CSS Profile used to calculate eligibility for financial aid?

Using Institutional Methodology, the CSS Profile calculates student and parent or guardian contributions to assist institutions in measuring eligibility for their institutional grant and scholarship funds. The CSS Profile allows families to provide more robust information and assists colleges in awarding institutional funds equitably.

My family's financial circumstances have changed. Can you adjust my financial aid offer?

In determining a student’s financial aid eligibility, we consider circumstances such as loss of employment or changes in employment status, parents’ or guardians’ divorce or separation, or the death or disability of a parent or guardian. If you (independent students only and spouses, if applicable) or your custodial parent(s) experienced a reduction in income of at least 20% of your total taxable and untaxed income for 2019, we may re-evaluate your financial need. Please contact the Office of Admission for our Special Circumstances Form, which includes instructions on documenting the reduction. An adjustment to the current financial aid offer could be made based on this reduction in income. We'll carefully consider the information submitted, but this doesn't guarantee a revision to your financial aid eligibility. Our office will contact you if we need additional documentation.
The number of family members attending college has changed. Should I inform you?

Yes. The number of dependent family members enrolled on at least a half-time basis in a degree-seeking or certificate program affects your financial aid eligibility. Please notify us directly in writing if the number in college changes after you’ve filed your FAFSA or CSS Profile. In addition, please update your FAFSA online. We’ll re-evaluate your eligibility and notify you if your financial aid changes. The HUB will verify the enrollment of any family members attending institutions outside of Carnegie Mellon during the fall semester.

Will my housing and meal plan selection impact my Cost of Attendance?

The Cost of Attendance that’s used to calculate your financial aid eligibility is based on a standard double room and the university’s “blue” meal plan. Details about housing options can be found at cmu.edu/housing. For information on meal plans, visit cmu.edu/dining. More expensive room and board options could increase the cost to your family.

Can enrolling part-time affect my financial aid offer?

Yes. Your financial aid offer is based on full-time (36 units or more per semester) enrollment. If you’re enrolled part-time and assessed part-time tuition, your financial aid offer will be revised to reflect this. You have to be enrolled at least half-time to be eligible for financial aid.

Can my academic performance affect my financial aid offer?

Yes. The U.S. Department of Education requires recipients of Federal Title IV financial assistance to meet academic progress standards each year. Federal Title IV financial assistance includes the Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG), Federal Work-Study, Federal Direct Student Loan and Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan programs. Each university determines its own policy regarding satisfactory progress standards. Federal academic progress standards must include two elements: cumulative QPA and cumulative units. At Carnegie Mellon, we define this as follows: first-year students must pass 80% of all cumulative units attempted at Carnegie Mellon and have a 1.75 cumulative QPA after the first year and all other undergraduate students must pass 80% of all cumulative units attempted at Carnegie Mellon and have a 2.0 cumulative QPA. For more information on academic progress information, visit cmu.edu/sfs/financial-aid/policies/academic-progress.html.
Can my financial aid offer change from year to year?
Yes. The most common reasons why your financial aid offer could change include:

- Change in the number of family members in college
- Change in household size
- Increase or decrease in family income
- Increase in cost of attendance
- Receipt of an outside scholarship
- Unsatisfactory academic progress

You'll need to apply for need-based financial aid each year because the information used to determine your eligibility may change annually. Part of your financial aid offer is determined by the Cost of Attendance. A change in your enrollment status such as enrolling part-time, studying abroad or living off campus may change your cost and, as a result, your financial aid.

If I am a veteran or dependent of a veteran and eligible to receive federal military and veterans educational benefits, should I notify you?
All prospective students who've completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and are eligible to receive federal military and veterans educational benefits for the upcoming academic year should notify The HUB (thehub@andrew.cmu.edu) and contact Mike Danko, Carnegie Mellon’s VA Certifying Official (uro-vaedbenefits@andrew.cmu.edu) to confirm eligibility.

Does Carnegie Mellon participate in the Private College 529 plan?
Carnegie Mellon University is one of more than 270 private colleges and universities nationwide participating in the Private College 529 Plan, a prepaid program that locks in future college tuition at today's prices. U.S. residents 18 years of age or older may purchase certificates for a named beneficiary. Those certificates can be used to pay the percentage of tuition that was originally prepurchased and are redeemable at any participating college or university. The plan is a tax-advantaged way to help parents, grandparents and guardians afford a private college education for their students. For more information, visit privatecollege529.com.
Student Account

Student Account Invoices

Student account invoices are produced on the last calendar day of each month. The invoice includes both current activity and future semester charges and credits when they're available. Carnegie Mellon will notify students via email when an invoice is produced and ready to be viewed on Student Information Online (SIO). Students may access SIO at cmu.edu/hub/sio after May 20. Carnegie Mellon doesn't mail paper invoices. You can authorize individuals to receive your invoices by email through Student Information Online (SIO). You can also authorize parents or other individuals to access My Plaid Student — a secure website which provides certain information about a student. Information available through My Plaid Student includes access to student account invoices and student account activity as well as the ability to make payments and request enrollment verifications. Learn more at cmu.edu/hub/MyPlaidStudent. For more billing information, visit cmu.edu/sfs/billing.

Charges

Your invoice may contain charges for tuition, housing, dining and administrative fees. Books, supplies, travel allowance and personal expenses don't appear on the invoice.

Financial Aid Credits

With the exception of Federal Work-Study and outside scholarships, one-half of your annual financial aid will be applied as a credit to your student account each semester.

A Federal Direct Student Loan or a Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan won't automatically be reflected on your student account until the loan funds have been disbursed to Carnegie Mellon. You must apply for these loans.

Due to origination fees, approximately 49.5% of the annual amount of a Federal Direct Student Loan or approximately 48% of the annual amount of a Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan will appear on your student account each semester once the funds are disbursed. All first-time federal student loan borrowers must complete Federal Direct Loan entrance counseling and sign their master promissory note.

Students who don't apply for financial aid but plan to borrow an unsubsidized Federal Direct Student Loan only or students whose parents or guardians plan to only apply for a Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan are only required to complete a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).
Tax Information

There are many tax credits and deductions available to help you offset the costs of higher education. Visit cmu.edu/sfs/taxes for all your options.

Other Useful Websites

Carnegie Mellon Financial Aid Information
admission.enrollment.cmu.edu/pages/financial-aid

FastWeb
fastweb.com

CSS Profile: The College Board
cssprofile.collegeboard.org

College Board Institutional Documentation Service (IDOC)
idoc.collegeboard.org

FAFSA
fafsa.gov

Federal Tax Credit Info
irs.gov

Student Gateway
to the U.S. Government
studentaid.gov

Selective Service
sss.gov

National Student Loan Data System
nslds.ed.gov

Private College 529 Plan
privatecollege529.com

The SmartStudent Guide
to Financial Aid
finaid.org
### 2020-2021 Academic Year

**Initial Financial Aid Offer Letters Produced**
- Prospective Students: March
- Returning Students: May

**First-Time Borrowers Apply for a Federal Direct Student Loan**
- June 1

**Fall Invoices Generated & Distributed**
- June 30

**Enroll in the Fall Payment Plan**
- July 1

**Fall Semester Balance Due**
- August 15

**Fall First Day of Classes**
- August 31

**Spring Payment Plan Enrollment Deadline**
- November 1

**Thanksgiving Break**
- November 25-27

**Spring Invoices Generated & Distributed**
- November 30

**Fall Last Day of Classes**
- December 11

**Fall Last Day of Final Exams**
- December 20

**Spring First Day of Classes**
- January 11

**Spring Semester Balance Due**
- January 15

**Spring Break**
- March 8-12

**Spring Last Day of Classes**
- April 30

**Spring Last Day of Final Exams**
- May 10

**Commencement**
- May 16

*Past due accounts accrue a 1.5% interest charge each month until the balance is paid in full.*
The Office of Admission is the point of contact for both admission and financial aid for all prospective and incoming Carnegie Mellon students until early June. At that point, newly enrolled students begin working with The HUB, Carnegie Mellon's Student Service Center, regarding financial aid.

**OFFICE OF ADMISSION**

Carnegie Mellon University  
Office of Admission  
5000 Forbes Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890  
Phone: 412.268.2082  
Fax: 412.268.7838  
Email: admission@andrew.cmu.edu  
Website: cmu.edu/admission

**Office Hours:**
From December-May, you can reach us by phone during the following hours (during the summer months we don't have evening or weekend hours):

- Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 7 p.m. ET  
- Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. ET  
- Saturday 8 a.m. – noon ET

**THE HUB**

Carnegie Mellon University  
5000 Forbes Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890  
Phone: 412.268.8186  
Fax: 412.268.8084  
Email: thehub@andrew.cmu.edu  
Website: cmu.edu/hub

**Office Hours:**

- Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ET  
- Tuesday and Thursday: 10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ET
Carnegie Mellon University does not discriminate in admission, employment or administration of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap or disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, creed, ancestry, belief, veteran status or genetic information. Furthermore, Carnegie Mellon University does not discriminate and is required not to discriminate in violation of federal, state or local laws or executive orders.

Inquiries concerning the application of and compliance with this statement should be directed to the university ombudsman, Carnegie Mellon University, 5000 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213, telephone 412.268.1018.


Carnegie Mellon University publishes an annual campus security and fire safety report describing the university’s security, alcohol and drug, sexual assault and fire safety policies, and containing statistics about the number and type of crimes committed on the campus, and the number and cause of fires in campus residence facilities during the preceding three years. You can obtain a copy by contacting the Carnegie Mellon Police Department at 412.268.2523. The annual security and fire safety report also is available online at cmu.edu/police/annualreports.