

FINANCIAL AID NEXT STEPS

The financial aid process can be confusing and time-consuming. Use this checklist as a way to stay on top of financial aid steps you need to take after you receive your aid awards and before you start college.



Piece it together

Check to make sure all of your scholarships, grants or loans are fully accounted for in your financial aid package. If something is missing, contact the financial aid office immediately.



Negotiate if necessary

If your package does not cover enough of your expenses, you could try to negotiate for more aid. Reach out to the admissions office and explain why you need additional financial assistance.

In extreme situations such as a major medical emergency or loss of a parent's job, you can ask the financial aid office for a professional judgment, which might allow you to access more financial aid. If you request a professional judgment, there is no guarantee you will be awarded one.



Compare aid awards

If you are considering multiple schools, compare and contrast the amounts you will be billed. To learn how to do this, watch the video on interpreting financial aid awards.



Provide the necessary paperwork

Colleges require you to submit documents in order to successfully enroll and confirm your financial aid awards. Contact the financial aid office to make sure they are not waiting for any of your paperwork.

Some financial aid offices may require additional documentation to verify the information on the FAFSA. Send in the requested documents as soon as possible and follow up within a week to make sure they were received.



Accept your package

You will most likely do this through your student portal, but there may be a paper form you need to complete instead. Remember, you do not have to accept the full amount of loans you have been offered.



Pay your fees and deposits

Many colleges require payments between the time you accept your aid and when you start classes. This could include:

Enrollment deposit/matriculation fee:

Deposit made when you accept your offer of admission.

Housing deposit: Deposit made when you register for on-campus housing. Make sure to register early so you have your choice of room type and cost.

Orientation fees: Required charges for you to attend summer orientation.

If you need some assistance covering these costs, check with your financial aid office for fee or deposit waivers.

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