

Addressing College Costs

Overview

The costs of college attendance include tuition, books, fees, transportation, room and board, among others. Students and families have multiple state and federal options to meet those cost demands. Learn more about [state and federal options for college expenses](#) on readyssetgrad.org. More information on how to get help paying for school is available on our [Finding Money for College page](#).

Federal Financial Aid

Application

- The [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) is required for potential receipt of federal aid. Washington (as well as many colleges nationwide) use the FAFSA to determine eligibility for state programs and campus financial assistance.

State-sponsored Financial Aid

Application

- [Washington Application for State Financial Aid \(WASFA\)](#) can result in financial aid to students ineligible for federal financial aid due to immigration status. Students who meet individual program, income, or residency requirements for the State Need Grant, the College Bound Scholarship, State Work Study, or Passport Scholarship should complete the free WASFA (Washington Application for State Financial Aid) to apply for state financial aid.

Need-based Aid

- [The College Bound Scholarship program](#) is an early commitment of state financial aid to eligible students who sign up in middle school and fulfill the scholarship pledge. Students who were in foster care between grades 7 and 12 grade are automatically enrolled in this program. Students who are eligible but don't know if they're enrolled should call the College Bound office at 888-535-0747 to check their enrollment status.
- [The State Need Grant](#) helps the state's lowest-income undergraduate students pursue degrees, hone skills, or retrain for new careers. Students can use the grants at [eligible institutions](#) in Washington.
- [The State Work Study program](#) provides part-time employment opportunities for low- and middle-income undergraduate and graduate students.
- [The Passport to College Program for Foster Youth program](#) provides scholarships and support services for eligible former foster youth.

Merit-based Aid

- The American Indian Endowed Scholarship provides aid for eligible undergraduate students with close social and cultural ties to an American Indian community.

State-sponsored Programs

College Savings

- The [GET Program](#) is Washington's 529 prepaid college tuition plan that helps families with young children save for future higher education expenses. This plan is designed for Washington residents and the State guarantees accounts will keep pace with in-state tuition.
- [DreamAhead](#) is Washington's 529 college savings investment plan that also helps families save for higher education. This plan is open to anyone in the U.S. and offers a wide range of flexible investment options, with returns based on financial market performance. Both of Washington's 529 plans allow students to pay for qualified higher education expenses, including tuition, fees, room and board, books, and supplies at universities, colleges and technical schools nationwide and at select schools in other countries.

Scholarship Search Tool

- [TheWashBoard.org](#) is a free, student-centered, online clearinghouse for Washington students seeking college scholarships. Users can search and apply for scholarship opportunities specific to academic interests, college, university, or other criteria.

FAFSA-filing Support

- [Washington's 12th Year Campaign](#) provides high school seniors with support during the college and financial aid application processes. In partnership with OSPI, WSAC also maintains the FAFSA Completion Portal, an online tool school districts can use to access their students' FAFSA completion status.