What is federal student aid?

Federal student aid comes from the federal government—specifically, the U.S. Department of Education. It's money that helps a student pay for higher education expenses (e.g., college, career school, or graduate school expenses). Federal student aid covers such expenses as tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, and transportation. There are three main categories of federal student aid: grants, work-study, and loans.

Who gets federal student aid?

Students who meet certain eligibility requirements may receive some type of financial aid. Some of the most basic eligibility requirements are that you must:

- demonstrate financial need (for most programs).
- be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen.
- have a valid Social Security number.
- be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a regular student in an eligible degree or certificate program.
- maintain satisfactory academic progress in college or career school.
- sign the certification statement on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid(FAFSA®) form stating that:
  - you are not in default on a federal student loan,
  - you do not owe money on a federal student grant, and
  - you will use federal student aid only for educational purposes; and
- show you're qualified to obtain a college or career school education by:
  - having a high school diploma or a recognized equivalent such as a General Educational Development (GED) certificate.
  - completing a high school education in a homeschool setting approved under state law (or—if state law does not require a homeschooled student to obtain a completion credential—completing a high school education in a homeschool setting that qualifies as an exemption from compulsory attendance requirements under state law); or
  - enrolling in an eligible career pathway program and meeting one of the "ability-to-benefit" alternatives described below.

Find more details about eligibility criteria at **StudentAid.gov/eligibility** and at **ivytech.edu/financial-aid**.

How do I apply for federal student aid?

1. Create an FSA ID.
Students, parents, and borrowers should create an FSA ID, made up of a username and password, to submit their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online and to access U.S. Department of Education websites. Your FSA ID is used to confirm your identity and electronically sign your federal student aid documents. To create an FSA ID, visit **StudentAid.gov/fsaid**.

2. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at StudentAid.gov.
If you plan to attend college from July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025, you'll be able to submit a 2024–25 FAFSA in late December of 2023. You'll be required to report income and tax information from 2022. FAFSA information is also used to award state and institutional financial aid. Be sure to file your FAFSA by April 15, 2024, for state grant consideration and use School Code 009917. Ivy Tech Community College's priority dates are listed at ivytech.edu/financial-aid.

3. Review your Student Aid Report.
After you apply, you'll receive a FAFSA Submission Summary, or FSS. Your FSS contains the information reported on your FAFSA and usually includes your Student Aid Index (SAI). The SAI is a number (not a dollar amount) used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid. Review your FSS information to make sure it's correct. The school(s) you list on your FAFSA will get your FSS data electronically.

4. Apply for Ivy Tech Scholarships!
To apply for scholarships, log into MyIvy, click on the Tools and Resources tab, and click the Apply for Scholarships link. You only need to complete one application each academic year to be eligible for most Ivy Tech scholarships.

5. Estimate your cost and aid!
If you want to see an estimate of your direct costs and financial aid after submitting your FAFSA, visit **ivytech.edu/financial-aid** and click on "Calculate your estimated cost of attendance, grants, and loans" from the "Helpful Tools" box on the right hand side of the screen.

Federal **Student Aid**
An OFFICE *of the* U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* EDUCATION

PROUD SPONSOR *of the* AMERICAN MIND ®

Program and Type of Aid	Program Information	Annual Award Amount (subject to change)
Federal Pell Grant Grant: does not have to be repaid	For undergraduates with exceptional financial need who have not earned bachelor's or professional degrees.	Amounts can change yearly. The maximum Federal Pell Grant award is $7,395 for 2023–24 award year (July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024). The Pell Grant award for 2024-2025 has not yet been released (July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025). Visit **StudentAid.gov/pell-grant** for more information.
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) Grant: does not have to be repaid	For undergraduates with exceptional financial need.	Up to $4,000. Visit **StudentAid.gov/fseog** for more information.
The ACT formerly called: Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant Grant: does not have to be repaid	For students whose parent or guardian was a member of the U.S. armed forces and died as a result of (a) performing military service in Iraq or Afghanistan on or after September 11, 2001; or (b) actively serving as and performing the duties of a public safety officer; and are less than 33 years old as of the January 1 prior to the award year for which the applicant is applying (e.g., for the 2024-25 award year, a student must be less than 33 years old as of January 1, 2024, to be eligible).	The grant award can be equal to the maximum Federal Pell Grant amount (see above), but cannot exceed your cost of attending school. Visit **StudentAid.gov/Iraq-Afghanistan** for more information.
Federal Work-Study Work-Study: money is earned; does not have to be repaid	For undergraduate and graduate students; part-time jobs can be on campus or off campus. Money is earned while attending school.	No annual minimum or maximum amounts. Visit **StudentAid.gov/workstudy** for more information.
Direct Subsidized Loan Loan: must be repaid with interest	For undergraduate students who have financial need; U.S. Department of Education generally pays interest while the student is in school and during certain other periods; student must be at least half-time. Interest rate is 5.5% for loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2023, and before July 1, 2024, and fixed for the life of the loan. Visit **StudentAid.gov/interest** for more information.	Up to $6,500 depending on grade level and dependency status. Visit **StudentAid.gov/sub-unsub** for more information.
Direct Unsubsidized Loan Loan: must be repaid with interest	For undergraduate and graduate or professional students, borrower is responsible for all interest; student must be at least half-time; financial need is not required. Interest rate is 5.5% (undergraduate) and 7.05% (graduate or professional) for loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2023, and before July 1, 2024, and fixed for the life of the loan. Visit **StudentAid.gov/interest** for more information.	Up to $10,500 annually at Ivy Tech (less any subsidized amounts received for the same period), depending on year in school (first or second) and dependency status. Visit **StudentAid.gov/sub-unsub** for more information.
Direct PLUS Loan Loan: must be repaid with interest	For parents of dependent undergraduate students and for graduate or professional students; borrower is responsible for all interest; student must be enrolled at least half-time; financial need is not required; borrower must not have an adverse credit history. Interest rate is 8.05% for loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2023, and before July 1, 2024, and fixed for the life of the loan. Visit **StudentAid.gov/interest** for more information.	Maximum amount is the cost of attendance minus any other financial aid received. Visit **StudentAid.gov/plus** for more information.
State Grants Grant: Does not have to be repaid • O'Bannon Higher Ed. Award • 21st Century Scholars • Adult Student Grant • Veterans/Dependents • Workforce Ready Grant	Eligibility for most state grant programs is based on FAFSA results and academic progress. Visit **in.gov/che** and select State Financial Aid for details.	Varies by program and academic progress.

Note: The information in this document was compiled in December 2023. For updates or additional information, visit **StudentAid.gov.**

IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

December 2023

Looking for more sources for free money?
Try **StudentAid.gov/scholarships** for tips on where to look and for a link to a free online scholarship search.