

myStudentAid

Complete your 2024-2025 applications today!

→ File early to avoid processing delays!



WHAT'S AVAILABLE?

This is one of the first questions we get asked. Financial aid is any type of assistance a student receives to help pay for their education. It is awarded by federal and state governments as well as private agencies. Aid includes grants, scholarships, work programs, loans and other resources. Most families use federal and state aid but when it is not enough they look to the private sector for assistance.

Step #1—FSA ID

Create your FSA ID at studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch. Your parent will need to create their own FSA ID to sign your application and download the app if you use that to apply.

TIP: You and your parent must use different email and mobile phone numbers when linking your FSA ID for password recovery purposes. Be sure to set this up as it is a secure federal website and once locked out is difficult to regain access.

Step #2—FAFSA

Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) application process at studentaid.gov. Completing this application applies you for all types of federal assistance including grants, loans and work-study programs.

Step #3—New York

Apply for state assistance, New York State residents will be given a link to NYS HESC at the end of the FAFSA application to automatically link over to that application. You can also go to hesc.ny.gov to complete the application.

Step #4—Scholarships

Start looking for any scholarship opportunities. The applications should be free to apply, be aware of scams that ask you to pay a fee upfront.

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IMPORTANT DEADLINES!

Our preferred deadline for submitting the FAFSA application is February 1, 2024 for the upcoming 2024-2025 academic year. Applying before this deadline will help ensure you are considered for the limited campus based aid funds. Once we receive the results of your FAFSA application we will notify you of any additional required documentation and send you a financial aid award notification detailing the assistance.

TIMELINE

October 2023

- Apply for College Admission.

December 2023

- Apply for Financial Aid.
- Complete Online Scholarship Applications.

March 2024

- Accept or Decline Financial Aid Offers.
- Watch your email & UCANWEB accounts for updates
- Submit all required documentation.

May 2024

- Submit Admissions and/or Housing Deposits.
- Complete NYS Excelsior Application.

June 2024

- Submit health record & final transcripts.

July 2024

- Attend Orientation.
- Create a class schedule.
- Fall bill due.

August 2024

- Begin classes!!

FEDERAL AID

The FAFSA application is how you apply for the following types of federal assistance. Each program has a set of criteria for determining your eligibility and award amount. Additional paperwork may be required.

The Grant & Work Programs

Funds paid by these programs do not need to be repaid.

Federal Pell Grant

- Award amount determined by FAFSA.
- Lifetime limit of 12 full-time semesters or 1st Bachelor Degree.

Federal SEOG Grant

- Awarded to highest financial need, must also be Pell eligible.
- Limited number of awards.

Federal Work Study

- Awarded based on financial need.
- Limited number of awards.

The Loan Programs

Funds borrowed under these programs must be repaid.

Federal Direct Subsidized Loan

- Awarded based on financial need.
- Fixed 5.50% interest rate (as of 2023-24 aid year).
- No interest while in-school.
- 6 month grace period after enrollment ends or dropping below half-time before repayment begins.

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan

- Fixed 5.50% interest rate (as of 2023-24 aid year).
- 6 month grace period after enrollment ends or dropping below half-time before repayment begins.
- Interest will be capitalized if not paid.

Federal Direct Parent Loan

- Borrowed by parent.
- Parent must complete a loan application, subject to credit approval.
- Fixed 8.05% interest rate (as of 2023-24 aid year).
- Repayment begins 60 days after loan has been fully disbursed.
- Deferment is an option but must be requested by parent.
- Interest will capitalize if not paid.

FEDERAL AID:

Complete the FAFSA Application at studentaid.gov

Preferred Deadline: February 1, 2024

Borrow Wisely

Only borrow what you can afford to repay.

Sample Repayment Terms for Average SUNY Student Borrower⁴

Loan Amount	\$26,660
Interest Rate*	4.53%
Term	10 Years
Monthly Payment	\$277

Sample Repayment Terms for Parent Loan Borrower⁴

Interest Rate*	7.08%
Term	10 Years
Monthly Payment	\$117 per \$10,000
<i>(Approximate)</i>	

* Based on static interest rates. Rates may vary for each loan disbursement

STATE AID

New York State residents

New York offers both tuition grants and scholarships. To apply you must be a New York State resident and complete an application at [hesc.ny.gov](https://www.hesc.ny.gov). If you graduated from a New York State high school and/or have qualified under the Dream Act in the past you may still be able to receive funding from New York State.

Here is a list of the most common awards, a full list can be viewed online at www.hesc.ny.gov.

1. Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)
2. Aid for Part Time Study (APTS)
3. Veteran Tuition Award (VTA)
4. SUNY Tuition Credit
5. Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)
6. Academic Excellence Scholarship
7. Excelsior Scholarship

NEW YORK STATE AID:

TAP Grant: Complete application at [hesc.ny.gov](https://www.hesc.ny.gov)

Must file FAFSA application first.

Excelsior Scholarship: www.hesc.ny.gov/excelsior

Application available in late spring.

Non-New York State residents

If you are not a New York State resident, then you should check with your home state for available programs.



Launched in 2017, this program can cover up to the full cost of tuition only for New York State residents. Families are often confused and think it's a "free" college scholarship. However, the college bill includes charges for tuition, fees, room, and meals. This scholarship only pays the cost of tuition IF it's not already covered by another grant or scholarship program.

Students must meet the following criteria:

- NYS Resident;
- Family income of \$125,000 or less based on current 2023-2024 income requirements;
- First-time student in 2021 or later who meets the cumulative credit requirements.

To apply the student must complete the application process and sign their contract by all posted deadlines. The award amount is calculated by taking the cost of tuition only and subtracting any other grants and scholarships. To keep the award in future semesters the student must continue to be full-time and complete a minimum of 30 credits per year. Cumulative credits must be applicable toward the current degree program and the student must be on track to graduate on-time with no gap in enrollment regardless of any program changes.



WHAT ABOUT SCHOLARSHIPS?

Seek out as many scholarships as you can. It doesn't hurt to apply since sometimes the number of applications is low which increases your chance of being selected. Thanks to the generosity of alumni, friends, and community members the Canton College Foundation awards approximately \$400,000 in scholarships every year.

Don't forget to complete the SUNY Canton online scholarship application!

The SUNY Canton Financial Aid Office will email announcements of new scholarship opportunities as they arise throughout the year to the SUNY Canton student list serve. Scholarship opportunities are posted on the SUNY Canton webpage.

WHAT'S AVAILABLE

- **SUNY Canton Scholarships:** You will automatically be considered for scholarships once you are accepted. Reviewers consider such factors as academic accomplishment and financial need. To improve your chances, after you are accepted at SUNY Canton, you should complete the application at canton.academicworks.com. Some scholarships are specifically for students with certain characteristics, such as involvement in scouting, demonstrated leadership, single parent, etc. You should complete the application to let reviewers know about you and how a scholarship will benefit you. See canton.academicworks.com for a list of available scholarships.
- **NYS Excelsior Scholarship:** Available to cover the cost of tuition not already covered by other awards for students with a family adjusted gross income below \$125,000. The application is open for a limited time, see hesc.ny.gov/excelsior for details.
- **NYS Scholarships:** The NYS Higher Education System Corporation (HESC) administers various scholarships including STEM, Veteran, Health professions, etc. See hesc.ny.gov for a complete list of opportunities available.

WHERE TO LOOK

- High School students should inquire with their Guidance Office.
- Transfer students should inquire with their Career Services Office.
- All students should look at the local organizations & businesses in their community.
- All students should look at organizations & businesses that their family are members of.
- Examples of places to look for scholarships include:
 - American Legion
 - Bank
 - Work Union
 - Associations
 - Employer



WHERE TO SEARCH ONLINE:

studentaid.gov
Hesc.ny.gov
Fastweb.com
Collegenet.com
NYSFAAA.org

THINGS TO WATCH FOR

- Date the application opens.
- Date the application closes.
- Preferred deadline, some applications do not close but instead have a preferred application deadline.
- The more detailed your application and/or essay the better. Take time to proof read and ask someone else to review it.
- Tips on the essay: It's not always the easiest task to self-promote when writing your essay so you may find it helpful to ask others for guidance. Remember the person reading your essay likely doesn't know anything about you so the more details about yourself you include the better.

You should never have to pay to apply for financial aid or a scholarship. Beware of scams.

COST OF ATTENDANCE

Use the following chart to determine your annual cost of attendance based on your state residency and where you will be living while enrolled in classes. All figures listed are based on the 2023-2024 actual academic year costs and are subject to change.

	NYS Resident On & Off Campus	NYS Resident Living with parent	Non-NYS Resident Associate Degree	Non-NYS Resident Bachelor Degree
Tuition	\$ 7,070	\$ 7,070	\$ 11,900*	\$ 17,490*
Comprehensive Fee	\$1,619	\$1,619	\$1,619	\$1,619
Room & Board ³	\$16,810	\$ 2,200	\$16,810	\$16,810
Parking Fee ¹	\$189	\$189	\$189	\$189
Health Insurance Fee ¹	\$3,072	\$3,072	\$3,072	\$3,072
Books & Supplies	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,300
Personal Expenses ²	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,300
Transportation Expenses ²	\$2,610	\$2,610	\$2,610	\$2,610
	\$33,970	\$19,360	\$38,800	\$44,390

¹ These fees are charged only if you park on-campus, have no health insurance and/or live on campus.

² These expenses are estimated and will not appear on your college bill.

³ These expenses will only appear on your bill if you live on-campus or select a campus meal plan.

What's the difference between billed and non-billed costs?

Billed Costs

All students are billed for tuition and fees. Only students who live on-campus will be billed for room and board charges. There are optional charges for items you can select that will also be added to your bill (parking, health insurance, etc.).

Non-Billed Costs

We include estimates for all non-billed expenses above. Your actual costs may be more or less depending upon your situation. It is important to keep these in mind when budgeting your money. Any financial aid in excess of your billed costs will begin to be refunded around the fourth week of each semester and you can use it to help pay these expenses.

*** Non-NYS Residents who are taking all online courses and living out-of-state will be eligible for a special tuition rate of \$4,400 per semester.**

YOUR SUNY CANTON ONLINE ACCOUNTS

Your enrollment packet from the Admissions Office details how to login to your online account for the first time. You should familiarize yourself with these accounts as you will be using them frequently.

SUNY Canton email

Email is an official means of communication at SUNY Canton. While we understand that you may already have a personal email address, we will be sending notifications to your SUNY Canton email and you are responsible for checking yours on a regular basis for important notices.

Texting option!

Be sure you have a mobile number on file. We will text you in the case of important issues regarding your account. Only important reminders will be texted, all other general notices will be sent to your SUNY Canton email address

UCanWeb account

Your UCanWeb account gives you access to your student account online. You will use it to register for classes, pay your college bill, and process other requirements. It allows you to access your grades, college bill, and financial aid information. It's a great way to keep track of your current status and allows you to update information in real-time. As soon as you click submit we can see it! There is a 'New Student Checklist' to help guide you through preparing for the first semester.

ROO LIFE

Track what is going on around the campus. Ability to interact with events particularly allowing online students to interact even though they are not on campus, including live views of concerts.

ROO SUCCESS

Allows for smooth communication between student, advisor & the campus. Designed to streamline communications so everyone is receiving the same information and able to track responses.

HANDSHAKE

Online job portal, allows you to create an account to search and apply for jobs.



THE SUNY SMART TRACK PROGRAM

This is a free service provided by New York State to all SUNY students. It is designed to assist you in making sound financial decisions before, during, and after you have completed your college education. Visit www.suny.edu/smartrack for more information on this free program. Start getting answers to your financial questions and create an account today.



Did you know?

You can find annual average salaries and expected demand for jobs on SUNY Smart Track's Financial Literacy Tools.

Create an account at www.suny.edu/smartrack/literacy and explore your earning potential

OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES

When federal and state assistance are not enough to cover your expenses, there are other resources you can look into for assistance. Below is a list of some of these options, eligibility for each varies.

Private Loans

A list of known lenders is available on our website and we recommend you see if your own bank will give you one at a discount. Unlike the federal student loans the private loans are based on the credit and income history of the applicant. As a result most students need to have a credit worthy co-signer. A few companies will allow someone other than the parent to apply for the loan directly. There are several options to consolidate these loans after graduation, typically once you graduate your income will increase and there would be less of a need to have any co-signer (releasing any prior co-signer from obligation).

Other resources

- **Acces-VR:** Students who received assistance in high school should speak with their Acces-VR counselor about opportunities for assistance in college. Typically they have strict deadlines and income verification requirements.
- **WIA:** Workforce Investment Act, for those who are seeking employment in a different field.
- **Military Benefits:** Various benefits are available to military personnel and their families. These often tend to be based on the military service of the individual or parent.
- **Employer Tuition Reimbursement:** Several companies offer tuition benefits, check with your or your parent's employer to see if any are available.

Payment Plans

The college offers a payment plan. Bills are issued each semester and you have the option to take the balance due and break it down into monthly payments. The balance must be paid in full before the next semester begins.

New York State DREAM Act

The DREAM Act gives undocumented and other students access to TAP, the Excelsior Scholarship, and other state-administered scholarships. To determine your eligibility and to apply, visit www.hesc.ny.gov/dream



Did you know?

You can schedule a virtual appointment to discuss your financial aid status one-on-one with a Financial Aid Advisor.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I have to wait to be admitted to apply for financial aid?

No! You can apply at any time for free. Normally the FAFSA becomes available October 1st each year, but the 2024-2025 FAFSA will not be available until the end of December 2023.

What if I miss a deadline?

It's not too late! You may miss out on some limited aid but should still apply as soon as possible.

I won't be eligible, should I still apply?

Yes. All students are eligible for at least a loan. Often families are surprised by what they get offered. We recommend everyone applies the first year.

Do I have to report my parents' information?

If you are under age 24 and unmarried with no children, then you will most likely have to. Including their information does not mean your parents' are required to pay anything.

What if I don't get enough aid to pay my bill?

In addition to the federal and state aid options, there are private loan programs. There are also a variety of other programs available for families from various funding sources including military benefits, scholarships, workforce investment act, and assistance for learning disabled students. Payment plans are also available each semester.

Could I lose my financial aid eligibility?

Yes. As you progress each semester there are academic requirements that you need to make sure you meet. Your eligibility can also be impacted by attending part-time (less than 12 credits), failing to declare a major and taking courses that are not applicable to your current degree program.

How do I get my financial aid to appear on the bill?

You need to have completed all financial aid paperwork for your financial aid to show as a credit. Missing paperwork prevents the aid from showing.



CONTACT US!

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One-Hop Shop**
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(800)-388-7123

Fax: (315) 386-7930

Email: finaid@canton.edu
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www.canton.edu