

PAYING FOR
**YOUR COLLEGE
EXPERIENCE**

Determining the most cost-effective way to pay for your college education may look different for each individual. Fortunately, there are plenty of options to help reduce the costs of pursuing a college education.

1. Scholarships

St. Scholastica offers many scholarships for first-year and transfer students. Additionally, scholarships can be awarded by outside groups such as foundations and civic organizations. Scholarship eligibility can be based on academic ability (often referred to as merit-based scholarships), financial situation (often referred to as need-based) or a combination of both.

Examples of available scholarships include:

▼ **Saints Match Scholarship:**
A price-match scholarship that makes attending The College of St. Scholastica comparable to the cost of attending the University of Minnesota.

▼ **Benedictine Scholarship:**
A merit-based scholarship that provides levels of aid based on test scores or GPA for all first-year and transfer students at our Duluth Campus.

▼ **Saints Promise Scholarship:**
Tuition-free pathway for first-time, new students who have a parent income of \$80,000 or lower*.

*For additional information, visit css.edu/saintspromise.

2. Financial Aid

The most common way students pay for school is through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which you can apply for at fafsa.gov. The application is free and requires your 2023 tax information.

By completing the FAFSA, you can be eligible for grants, loans or a combination of both. When accepting your financial aid, it is essential to understand that:

▼ Grants and scholarships do not need to be paid back.

▼ Loans do need to be paid back to the loan servicer after you graduate.

Here are two common loan types you may qualify for:

Subsidized Loans

Interest is paid by the government as long as you are enrolled in school at least half-time.

Unsubsidized Loans

Accrue interest the entire time you are enrolled in school.

There may be instances where the financial aid you are awarded does not meet your financial needs for an academic year. You and your family may consider a **private** or **Parent PLUS** loan in these circumstances. These are credit-based loans that the student or parent/guardian can apply for to help pay for school.



3. Student Employment

Also known as work-study, some students may qualify for this need-based program on their financial aid package. The Student Employment Program provides part-time jobs to college students with financial need, allowing you to work part-time on your college campus while enrolled in school, earning at least the Minnesota minimum wage.

A primary benefit to student employment is that the money earned in these positions is paid directly to you. Whereas other forms of financial aid are applied directly to your college bill first, student employment earnings are paid directly to the student as hours are worked. The student decides how to utilize the funds.

Questions? Drop us a line!

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The College of
St. Scholastica

css.edu 218-723-6046

THE FULL VALUE OF YOUR COLLEGE EDUCATION

Financial Aid Award Guide - 2025/2026

The College of
St. Scholastica





UNDERSTANDING YOUR FINANCIAL AID

Along with this guide, you will find your St. Scholastica financial aid notification. As you review your aid options, please keep the following information in mind:

DIRECT COSTS

Tuition, fees, housing and meal plan costs are known as the “direct costs” of a college. As you review them, keep in mind that St. Scholastica scholarships, outside scholarships, grants and other financial aid are not automatically reflected and can bring down these costs significantly. Tuition and amounts are available online at css.edu/tuition.

INDIRECT COSTS

Indirect costs are incurred aside from tuition, fees, housing and meal plan costs. Students can also use financial aid to help cover these costs. Examples include:

- Books purchased from online retailers
- Transportation and personal expenses
- Housing costs for off-campus living

Housing: All first-year students are assumed to be living on campus. If an exemption to the on-campus housing requirement is desired, please contact Admissions. Transfer students are assumed to be living off campus.

Student ID: Each student is assigned a student ID upon acceptance to St. Scholastica. This number is important and will be in use as long as you are a student.

Estimated Net Cost: The net cost is the difference between the total of the direct costs and the total of all grants and scholarships for which you may be eligible or offered. You can reduce the net cost even further by applying for additional scholarships or grants, or taking out student loans.

Grants & Scholarships: Gift aid that does not have to be repaid.

Loan Options: The St. Scholastica Financial Aid Office determines eligibility for federal loans based on the results of the FAFSA. The loans you are eligible for are listed within your financial aid notification and are optional. Loans typically require additional paperwork and may require a credit check. It is strongly advised that students complete loan applications a minimum of four weeks before the start of the semester and that students apply for the full academic year if possible. Interest will not accrue on loans until funds are disbursed.

THE VALUE OF YOUR COLLEGE EDUCATION

Between the education and experiences you'll gain and the connections and contacts you'll make, it's hard to ignore the value that a diploma brings.

- On average, students who earn a college degree are likely to make \$500,000 more over their lifetime than those who only hold a high school diploma.
- This gap widens even further for those who attain advanced degrees.

St. Scholastica stands out. We are nationally recognized for our exceptional quality and value.

- Saints' early post-graduation earnings rates #1 for Minnesota public and private colleges, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.
- The U.S. News & World Report includes St. Scholastica on its lists of the 'Best National Universities' and 'Top Performers on Social Mobility'.
- St. Scholastica is ranked on Money Magazine's 'Best Colleges for your Money' list and Princeton Review's list of 'Best Midwestern Colleges'.
- A First Forward Institution, St. Scholastica is recognized for developing new initiatives to support first-generation student success.
- St. Scholastica's six-year graduation rate is higher than the state, regional and national average.

THE RETURN ON YOUR INVESTMENT

Since 1912, The College of St. Scholastica has been preparing students for a life of purpose — as well as successful careers — by providing a rigorous, values-based education.

Our values of community, respect, love of learning, hospitality and stewardship reflect our commitment to lifting up others and celebrating our common humanity. These aren't just words on a plaque; they're lifelong ideals that will shape your approach to leading in careers and communities.

We can assure you that you will be provided with the tools, resources and guidance to be successful. Our faculty, staff, current student body and alumni networks want nothing more than for you to thrive. You'll experience their support from your first day of classes to graduation day to the day you look to jump-start your career.



VERIFICATION

A small percentage of students who receive financial aid are selected for a quality control process called Verification. If you are selected, you'll be notified directly about what to submit. Financial aid will not be disbursed to student accounts until the Verification process is complete.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES & PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT

A student's eligibility for need-based financial aid is based on information collected from the FAFSA. The FAFSA does not recognize unusual and non-discretionary situations, such as loss in income, private K-12 tuition, divorce/separation, extreme medical expenses, etc. To ensure that family hardships don't affect a student's ability to attend college, families with special circumstances may submit an appeal (called Professional Judgment) to have their financial aid eligibility reviewed. If you have questions about whether you qualify for an appeal, please view the form at css.edu/forms.

CHARGING YOUR BOOKS

St. Scholastica offers students an option to charge up to \$600 for class textbooks per semester. The final cost of books will be transferred to your college bill.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Each semester, students will be notified when their electronic bill becomes available for payment. St. Scholastica offers a variety of options to pay your bill, including a student or parent loan, cash, personal check, money order, cashier's check, payment plans, ACH payment or credit card payment.

FINANCIAL AID POLICIES

The College of St. Scholastica uses an electronic process to provide notices, make disclosures and direct students to a secure website. Students are entitled to request paper copies by contacting St. Scholastica. To learn more about financial aid policies, please visit css.edu/financialaidpolicies.

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