If you’ve ever wondered...

“How do I apply for scholarships?”

“What’s the difference between scholarships and loans?”

“What kind of aid am I eligible for?”

...Indiana University is here to help.
This guide will help you navigate the financial options available to students attending IU. You’ll find definitions, tips, easy reference info, and—of course—ways to contact the IU experts dedicated to helping you minimize your costs.
Financial aid at IU

Each year, IU students receive millions of dollars in scholarships and financial aid. Here’s how it works:

Beginning October 1 of your senior year, you may complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). The information from your FAFSA determines your eligibility for specific types of financial aid.

For highest scholarship consideration, submit your complete application for admission, including official transcript, IU-specific essay, and test scores (if applicable) by November 1. This application is reviewed for scholarship eligibility.

If you are offered admission, watch the mail for your Financial Aid Notice in February. This packet lists the amount of aid (including scholarships) you can expect to receive for your freshman year at IU.

As you consider attending IU, Student Central is here to help you understand costs, learn about options for funding your college degree, and take care of the business of being a student.

Scholarship opportunities

**IU Academic Scholarships**

The Dean’s Scholarship is awarded to first-time out-of-state freshmen based on high academic performance. Awards range from $1,000 to $11,000 annually, renewable for up to four years.

The Provost’s Scholarship is awarded to first-time Indiana resident freshmen based on high academic performance. Awards range from $1,000 to $8,000 annually, renewable for up to four years.

Students who qualify for IU Academic Scholarships will be notified by email and with a letter beginning in mid-December.

**Selective Scholarship Application**

Students who may be eligible for specific departmental and program scholarships are notified in their admission email and invited to complete the Selective Scholarship Application (SSA).

**More to explore**

Visit scholarships.indiana.edu for more information on these and other ways that IU can help fund your education.
COA stands for “cost of attendance.” It is an estimate of the total cost of attending a particular university—including tuition, room and board, books, supplies, and transportation. See ours at go.iu.edu/COA.

EFC stands for “expected family contribution.” Calculated by the federal government from FAFSA information, it’s the number used by a university to determine whether a student is eligible for certain types of aid.

Financial aid is a general term used for ways to access college funding. Scholarships, grants, loans, and work-study are all types of financial aid.

Flat-rate tuition means students can enroll in a minimum of 12 credits per semester and up to 40 credit hours across fall, spring, and our August and winter intersessions—all for the same cost.

Grants are awards from federal, state, or local sources. They are often based on financial need and do not need to be repaid.

Loans are money borrowed to pay for education costs. They must be repaid. Possible loan sources include the federal government or private lenders.

Scholarships are education funds awarded based on academic merit or other factors. Scholarships are not repaid and are sometimes renewable for more than one year.

Work-study is a need-based federal student aid program that provides funding for part-time employment—while a student is enrolled in school—to help pay education expenses.
Dates to remember

October 1
FAFSA opens: studentaid.gov

November 1
For highest scholarship consideration, submit your complete application for admission to IU by this date. This includes official transcript, IU-specific essay, and SAT/ACT scores, if applicable (IU is test optional).

January 15
If you applied to IU by November 1, you may submit updated SAT/ACT scores for scholarship consideration until this date.

February 1
Regular deadline to submit your complete application for admission.

April 15
Priority date to submit the FAFSA.

May 1
Deadline to reserve your space in the fall freshman class.
Managing your costs at IU

Beyond scholarships and financial aid, here are student tips for saving money and managing costs while attending IU:

Andreina Treto, Class of 2023
Oak Lawn, IL

“Flat-rate tuition has helped me to save money by taking my perfect number of credit hours each semester, without paying any extra tuition. It allows you to take all the classes you need for your major, your minor, and even other fun classes, all at the same price.”

Tamar Trice, Class of 2022
Gary, IN

“I would really recommend getting a campus job. They pay well, work around your class schedule, and are in ideal locations. You also get to meet other students and even faculty members, which is so valuable.”

Carson Billingsley, Class of 2023
Manhattan Beach, CA

“For me, freshman housing made the first year of college so much easier. All of your freshman housing expenses go through your student account, which means you can know what all your costs will be at the beginning of the year.”

Want more tips?

Visit moneysmarts.iu.edu to boost your financial literacy and learn more about managing costs during and after college.