

Your Official Financial Aid Timeline



October

Start your scholarship search

- Keep a running list with links so that you can quickly access them when applications open, usually around November.
- Check out our [website](#) for a great place to begin your search!

November

Apply for scholarships

- Applications are typically open November through March.
- Don't forget the [OSAC application](#) for Oregon residents (opens Nov. 1) and the [George Fox donor-funded application](#) (opens for *returning students* on Dec. 1)!

December

File your [FAFSA](#)

- We recommend filing by Jan. 31, so you don't miss out on federal and state funds limited to first-come, first-awarded.
- FAFSA ensures you're eligible to receive federal student loans, in addition to any need-based aid you may qualify for.

February

Receive your financial aid offer

- Schools will send out offer letters/emails in the spring.

April-August

Report outside scholarships when they are awarded

- This ensures they are factored into your aid package so that you have an accurate picture of your costs, and the university can defer the amount which will be paid by scholarships.

Check your MyGeorgeFox To Do List

- Log in to the student portal and ensure you do not have any outstanding "To Do List" items.
- Some tasks are required before federal aid can disburse, such as Entrance Loan Counseling, Master Promissory Note, etc.

May

Apply for (more) scholarships

- The [George Fox donor-funded application](#) opens for *new incoming* students on May 1!

June

Apply for [Parent PLUS](#) or [private loans](#)

- Not sure which one is right for you? Compare the two options [here](#).
- We recommend applying for loans ASAP, and no later than July 15.

July

Accept (or decline) your student loans

- If you're planning to use your loans, make sure to accept them so they're ready to go.
- If you're not going to use them, it's best to decline them so the school is aware.

Way to go!



Financial Aid Overview

New to financial aid? Following are the 6 main types of aid available!

Did You Know? Financial aid can come in different forms, and not all of it is free money. Federal work study is considered self-help, need-based aid, but it must be earned, as with any job. Student loans are also considered self-help aid, but they must be repaid. Make sure you understand the difference and know if your offer includes aid that must be repaid.

Scholarships

- Do not have to be repaid
- Should be reported to the school of attendance

Grants

- Do not have to be repaid
- Some need-based grants are offered through the FAFSA
- Search for others just as you search for scholarships

Federal Work Study

- Does not have to be repaid
- Need-based aid offered through the FAFSA
- Get a job on campus; use earnings at your discretion
- Award amount is not subtracted from the direct costs owed to a university, as the funds must be earned first

Federal Stafford Loans

- Must be repaid
- Subsidized loans are need-based and do not accrue interest while enrolled in school at least half time
- Unsubsidized loans begin to accrue interest right away
- Many students are offered a combination, as determined by the FAFSA

Federal Parent PLUS Loans

- Must be repaid
- Parents of dependent students can apply at studentaid.gov
- Begin to accrue interest right away

Private Loans

- Must be repaid
- [ELMSelect](#) is a great resource to help you search

Free!

