



# 2018-2019 GUIDE TO FINANCIAL AID

# Understanding financial aid

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## Financial aid is more than just loans.

Student loans are the most common tool people use to pay for their education, but before you borrow, we recommend you explore all other aid options that might be available to you.

**Important:** In order to pursue all available funding for which you may qualify, it's vital to apply for financial aid—and to explore all of your options—as soon as possible after enrolling at an Art Institutes school.

## The application process

To get started, download and complete a FAFSA on the Web Worksheet, available at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov). Next, schedule an appointment with a Student Financial Officer to prepare a worksheet outlining your estimated educational costs as well as possible resources to cover those costs.

# Researching your options

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## Research all sources of financial aid.

Here are some of the many resources you should consider as you seek to fund your creative education:

- Churches, community organizations, or fraternal groups that may offer financial assistance or scholarships.
- Your employer or, if applicable, your parents' employers, professional associations, or labor unions that offer aid.
- Students with physical or emotional disabilities may qualify for financial aid through state vocational rehabilitation programs.
- Veterans—and in some cases their dependents—may qualify for educational assistance through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Servicemembers—and in some cases their dependents—may qualify for tuition assistance through the U.S. Department of Defense.
- Scholarships may be available at this Art Institutes school.

## Check the web!

Several very popular websites that offer helpful resources for students and their families seeking additional sources of financial aid include:

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)

[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)

# How do I get started?

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## How do I apply for financial aid?

1. Complete and return a school admissions application.
2. Upon the acceptance of your application, you'll receive an enrollment packet containing the appropriate financial aid applications, instructions for completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), additional forms and instructions, and other information. The fastest, most direct way to get started is by applying online at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).
3. Complete the financial aid application forms. About one week after you submit the FAFSA on the web, the school will receive an electronic Institutional Student Information Report (ISIR) from the federal financial aid processor when you indicate the school as a choice on your FAFSA.
4. Remember to reapply for financial aid every year, since

the amounts and types of aid for which you are eligible may change in subsequent years. Application deadlines are announced annually during the Winter Term.

## What if I don't receive my financial aid by the start of classes?

If your aid applications and forms have been properly submitted, the school can pre-credit any anticipated aid to your student account. This enables you to start school on time by deferring costs that are covered by financial aid until the aid is received.

## Are there any payment plan options?

The Art Institutes offers payment plan options that enable payments to be made on a monthly basis while attending the school. Our Student Financial Aid Officers will help identify the best possible combination of financial resources to meet students' needs.

# How do I maintain my financial aid once I'm enrolled?

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## Application is a yearly process.

You need to reapply for financial aid each year. Even if you applied for aid the previous year, you must fill out a new FAFSA for each additional year you're requesting aid.

## How do I maintain my eligibility for financial aid?

After you enroll at the school and accept financial aid, you agree to take on specific responsibilities and retain certain rights. Here are some pointers to help you maintain your eligibility for financial aid:

1. Take the full load of classes that are scheduled for you. Aid may be reduced or canceled if your class schedule is reduced.
2. Keep copies of tax returns and other records. Federal regulations require random verification of financial aid applications, so you and/or your parents may be asked to provide copies of your tax returns or to demonstrate that you were not required to file a return.
3. Maintain satisfactory academic progress toward your educational goals as defined in the school catalog and student handbook.
4. Notify Student Financial Services if you receive any financial assistance that is not reported on your Student Financial Plan, including any outside scholarships and private loans.

Be aware that when you apply for financial aid, the assistance offered is subject to final funding authorization established by the U.S. Congress and state legislatures.

5. Reapply on time, accurately, and complete all applications and forms that are requested.
6. Stay up to date! Regulatory changes may bring about new rules and eligibility for financial aid, which could change your awards. There are substantial changes to federal awards each year that affect yearly aid availability and eligibility, along with maximum and aggregate eligibility.

**Important:** Please note that any or all federal financial aid programs may be modified or eliminated at any time at the discretion of the U.S. Congress.

## If I withdraw from school, will I receive a tuition refund?

If you withdraw for any reason, you may be entitled to a partial refund of tuition and fees paid. All students who withdraw and who are receiving financial aid are subject to a federally mandated refund policy and Return to Title IV Calculation that determines what amount and types of aid should be returned and in which order. The refund policy outlined in the school catalog and on the enrollment agreement determines whether any tuition and fees refund is due. Information on the calculation used regarding the return of funds can be found in the school catalog.

If you receive financial aid and you withdraw from the school with the intention of returning, you must notify Student Financial Services in order to request financial assistance for future terms. If you do decide to return to school you will likely need to reapply for financial aid.

# Completing the FAFSA form

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## Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Get organized by gathering your personal and family financial records.

**Important:** Remember that some federal financial aid is limited, so apply as soon as possible after enrollment. You may complete the FAFSA online at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).

## Which financial records will I need?

You'll need your 2016 1040 tax return and maybe your parents' as well, but only if you're considered to be a dependent student for purposes of federal financial aid. If eligible, and if you have already filed your taxes, you are encouraged to take advantage of the IRS Data Retrieval System when filing your FAFSA online.

### You may also need:

- Checkbook stubs
- Savings account and investment statements
- Information relating to income including wages, dividends, Social Security benefits, welfare and other government payments, alimony or child support, Veterans Affairs benefits, and disability benefits, etc.

If you've not yet filed your tax return, try to do so before you apply for financial aid. If you can't find last year's return, call Student Financial Services at the school, and we'll help you get a copy from the IRS.

If you're considered a dependent student for federal financial aid purposes, not only will you need a copy of your parents' tax return, but your parent(s) will need to complete the parent section of the form as well.

## Determining dependency status

For the 2018–2019 financial aid award year, the U.S. Department of Education uses the following questions to determine whether a student is dependent or independent for the purpose of applying for federal student aid:

- Were you born before January 1, 1995?
- Will you be working on a master's degree or doctorate degree?
- Are you married?
- Do you have children who receive more than half of their support from you?
- Do you have dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you?

- At any time since you turned age 13, were both parents deceased, were you in foster care or were you a dependent or a ward of the court?
- As determined by the court in your state of legal residence, are you or were you an emancipated minor?
- As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, are you or were you in legal guardianship?
- Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces?
- Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?
- Are you a homeless youth as defined on the FAFSA?

If you answer "NO" to all these questions, you are considered to be dependent for the purposes of applying for federal financial aid. You will need to have your parents complete the parent section of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

If you answer "YES" to any of these questions, you are considered to be independent for the purposes of federal financial aid. Your parents' information is not required. Please see the FAFSA instructions for more details on dependency status.

## Is the information I send confidential?

While this information is necessary to verify application statements, we appreciate the sensitive nature of individual tax returns. We hold all financial information you entrust to us in strictest confidence. You should also know that each school is bound by the provisions of the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), which regulates the release of any personal information. The FERPA policy can be found in the school catalog.

## Tips for filling out your FAFSA form

Complete the FAFSA on the Web Worksheet before starting the online application.

- Follow the online instructions carefully. The website is designed to assist you through the process.
- You should feel free to call the school if you are unsure how to answer specific questions on the form.
- Remember to sign the form electronically (e-sign). A parent must also e-sign if he or she contributed information to the form.
- Students and parents of dependent students will both need to create and provide an FSA ID. The FSA ID can be created at <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>.

# Federal government loans

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## How do I apply for the Federal Direct Student Loan?

You may complete the Federal Direct Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN) online via the U.S. Department of Education's Direct Loan website at <https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/index.action>. Our Student Financial Services staff will determine the loan amount you are eligible for after reviewing your completed FAFSA form.

For additional help in applying for federal loans, visit <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/>

### What is the MPN?

The MPN is a contract that you must sign when you receive a Subsidized or Unsubsidized Federal Direct Student Loan. This note will work as a multiyear promissory note, allowing you to receive Direct Loans each year without requiring you to complete additional promissory notes.

### What do I do next?

If you already have a valid MPN on file with the Direct Loan Program, notify us, and we will verify that it can be used at our school.

## How do I apply for the Federal Direct Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (Federal Direct PLUS)?

To apply for a Federal Direct PLUS Loan, your parent (only one need apply) must complete the Federal Direct PLUS Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN) at <https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/index.action>. Eligible parents who qualify may apply for Federal Direct PLUS Loans to help a dependent child attend school. Since Federal Direct PLUS Loans require a credit check, a Student Financial Aid Officer can assist you with that process. Based on your eligibility and the amount needed to pay for school, our Student Financial Services staff will recommend an appropriate loan amount.

## Tips for filling out these forms

- Carefully read the instructions and general information before you complete any form.
- Answer all questions, then use your username and password to e-sign the form.
- You will need two references who have separate and complete addresses.
- For references, we recommend listing your parents first, then any brothers, sisters, or adult relatives who live on their own. You may also include adult friends.
- If you don't have a driver's license, just complete that box by entering "None."

**Important:** Read the promissory note before you sign and date it. It is a legal document requiring you to pay back the money you borrow.

# Taking advantage of tax benefits

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## Don't overlook possible tax savings related to higher education.

You or your parents may qualify for various tax benefits available to students enrolled in higher education.

### These include:

- American Opportunity Credit
- Lifetime Learning Credit
- Tuition and fees tax deduction
- Student loan interest deduction
- Withdrawals from IRAs

Learn more about educational tax benefits by obtaining the IRS Publication 970 "Tax Benefits for Education" at [www.irs.ustreas.gov](http://www.irs.ustreas.gov). (Note that Congress may change these benefits at any time.)

## What are the tax benefits for students?

To make postsecondary education more affordable, The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 provided for Hope Scholarship Credits, Lifetime Learning Credits, and other tax benefits for students and parents. These benefits, called the American Opportunity Tax Credit, were enhanced as part of the Economic Stimulus Bill of 2009.

**Consult your tax advisor to learn more about tax benefits for higher education.**

### American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC) (formerly the Hope Scholarship)\*

A credit that reduces the amount of tax you pay, against tax paid or owed, the American Opportunity Credit helps to make the first four years of postsecondary education more affordable. Tax filers may be eligible for a tax credit of up to \$2,500 of qualified education expenses paid. Up to 40% is refundable. The credit covers tuition, fees, course-related books and supplies. For additional information, see: <https://www.irs.gov/publications/p970/ch02.html>

### Lifetime Learning Credit\*

A credit that reduces the amount of tax you pay, the Lifetime Learning Credit benefits students who are not able to claim the American Opportunity Credit. A family may claim up to \$2,000 of qualified expenses for all students per tax year. Unlike the AOTC, this credit is non-refundable. For additional information see: <https://www.irs.gov/publications/p970/ch03.html>

### Student loan interest deduction

A student loan borrower may take a tax deduction for interest paid in the tax year. This deduction can be taken even if the taxpayer does not itemize deductions. The maximum deduction is \$2,500.

### Withdrawals from IRAs

Students and their parents can take withdrawals from IRAs without penalty when the funds are used for qualified education expenses.

**\*Important:** Tax benefits available via these programs are subject to income limits. Please consult a tax advisor or the Internal Revenue Service for more information.

# Frequently asked questions

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## When should I apply for financial aid?

As soon as you enroll at the school. That's all it takes to be considered. After you're enrolled, annual deadline dates for reapplying for financial aid will be posted for continuing students.

## How much financial aid will I receive?

Most financial aid is based on individual economic circumstances. We determine these by analyzing the financial information you provide on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form available at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).

The FAFSA is a standard form used to determine your eligibility for many financial aid programs, including:

- Federal grant programs
- Federal loan programs
- Some state student assistance programs

We compute the difference between the total cost of your education and the amount that you and your family are expected to contribute based on a federally defined calculation referred to as your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). Once this is complete, we can determine the amount of financial aid for which you're eligible.

## How do you calculate whether I'm eligible for financial aid?

1. We estimate the cost of your education based on direct and indirect costs.

### Examples of direct costs include:

- Tuition
- Fees
- Some school supplies

### Examples of indirect costs include:

- Food
- Transportation to and from school
- Personal expenses and supplies

Housing expenses may be considered a direct or indirect cost, depending on your living arrangements.

We consider both direct and indirect costs when helping you budget adequate financial support during your

enrollment at the school. Standard budget figures (available for review in Student Financial Services and on the Consumer Information website) are used to estimate indirect costs, based on where you will live when you attend the school.

Housing Services can provide you with information on school-sponsored housing if available, as well as independent apartments.

2. We add up all of your available resources for educational costs. These resources include:
  - Family financial resources
  - Scholarships
  - Federal grants and loans for which you are eligible
  - State grants and loans for which you are eligible
  - Private education loans
  - Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits
  - Work programs
  - Tuition assistance
3. We subtract all of the available resources from the total estimated cost of your education.

## When will I receive my financial aid?

Your Student Financial Plan provides you with a schedule of aid payments from each aid program you use. These payments are usually made in equal installments for each term in each academic year. Once all the required paperwork is accurately completed, submitted, and you start school, your financial aid is automatically credited to your account at the beginning of each term. Most other aid is also sent to the school electronically. First-time borrowers will have their first loan disbursement delayed 30 days. Students will be informed of their aid eligibility either through written letter or within their student portal. Students are notified of their loan disbursements in their student portal, on their student ledger account.

# Frequently asked questions continued

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## Are there any eligibility requirements to receive federal student aid?

### Yes. Applicants must:

- Demonstrate financial need, except for some loan programs.
- Not be in default on a prior educational loan or owe repayment on a prior grant.
- Possess a high school diploma or a General Educational Development (GED) certificate.
- Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a regular student working toward a degree or certificate in an eligible program.
- Be enrolled at least half-time except for the Pell Grant program.
- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen.
- Have a valid Social Security Number.
- Make satisfactory academic progress.
- Sign a statement of educational purpose and a certification statement on overpayment and default, both found in the FAFSA.
- Register with the Selective Service, if required.
- Not have been convicted of certain drug violations.

The Art Institutes does not discriminate on the basis of age, creed, ancestry, religion, sex, disability, sexual orientation, race, color, or national or ethnic origin in any of its programs or services. This includes scholarship and loan programs, as well as administrative, educational, and admissions policies. It also includes housing, counseling, financial assistance, and student employment services.

Questions about this policy, which is governed by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and subsequent regulations, should be directed to the school or to the Director of the Office for Civil Rights of the Department of Education, Washington, D.C. 20202.

## What is verification?

Verification is the process by which the school is required to verify the information that students and parents provide on their FAFSA application in order to receive federal financial aid. Students are typically chosen by the government, either at random or due to something they filed in their application. The school can also choose to verify a student's record at its discretion. Not all students are chosen for verification. When chosen, students will be required to supply specific signed documentation that will be used to verify that the information supplied on the FAFSA application is accurate. If chosen, this information must be supplied and verified before federal aid can be disbursed to the student's account. Students will receive both written and email notices if selected for verification.



# Financial aid at our school

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## Federal grants

### Federal Pell Grant

**Description:** Federal Pell Grants are the most beneficial form of assistance to students who meet financial standards set by the federal government because they do not have to be repaid. They are available to students who demonstrate financial need, based on a federal formula, and who have not already received a bachelor's degree. The amount available varies from year to year based on Congressional appropriations. Grants for 2017-2018 for full-time, eligible students may be available up to \$6,095 per academic year. Part-time students who are eligible for grants may receive smaller amounts. Please contact Student Financial Services for current Pell Grant ranges and to discuss your eligibility. Federal Grants do not have to be repaid by eligible students who remain in school. Students might have to pay back all or part of a Federal Grant if he/ she withdraws from school before finishing an enrollment period (for example, a semester). As of July 1, 2012, Pell Grants are limited to six years of lifetime eligibility. To confirm your current status, please check your NSLDS information. The Pell Grant does not have to be repaid by eligible students who remain in school. Students might have to pay back all or part of a Pell Grant if he/ she withdraws from school before finishing an enrollment period (for example, a quarter).

**How to apply:** Visit [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

**How payments are made:** If we have a valid Institutional Student Information Report (ISIR) for you, we can receive your Pell Grant funds directly from the federal government. Your account is then credited with these funds before the first day of class each term. The credit is automatic as long as your financial paperwork is complete each year, you remain eligible for aid, and you officially register for classes each term. If you have a credit balance because you received a Pell Grant, you will receive this credit balance within seven days of the start of the term in order to help provide access to your books.

### Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

**Description:** FSEOGs are available to students who demonstrate exceptional financial need and who have not already received a bachelor's degree. The amount available varies, and program funds are limited. Eligible students generally receive from \$200 to \$1,200 for each academic year (three quarters or two semesters). Federal Grants do not have to be repaid by eligible students who remain in school. Students might have to pay back all or part of a Federal Grant if he/ she withdraws from school before finishing an enrollment period (for example, a

semester). Awards are given to students with the lowest EFC according to their FAFSA application. **How to apply:** Visit [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

**How payments are made:** If we have a valid ISIR for you, we can receive your FSEOG funds directly from the federal government. Your account is then credited with these funds before the first day of class each term. The credit is automatic as long as your financial paperwork is complete each year, you remain eligible for aid, and you officially register for classes each term.

### State Grant Assistance

The Art Institute of Pittsburgh Online participates in eligible Pennsylvania state grant/aid programs for eligible PA residents. See [PHEAA.org](http://PHEAA.org) for potential programs and further information.

Vermont residents attending The Art Institute of Pittsburgh – Online may be eligible for financial assistance through the Vermont state grant program. Contact the Vermont State Grant agency at <http://services.vsac.org/> for more information.

### Federal Direct Student Loan

**Description:** The interest rates for loans disbursed on or after July 1 of each year will be calculated based on Treasury bill rates as of June 1 (plus an additional add-on rate). Since interest rates are calculated every year, it is likely you will have different interest rates on subsequent loans as well as your prior federal loans. Once calculated, the interest rate for that loan will not change. Contact Student Financial Services for current interest rates. The program is funded through the U.S. Department of Education. Eligibility is based on financial need. If you are eligible, you may borrow once per academic year as long as all of the required paperwork has been completed. The federal government pays the interest on Subsidized Federal Direct Student Loans while a student attends school at least half-time and during periods of deferment, and during the six-month grace period. The student is responsible for paying the interest on an Unsubsidized Federal Direct Student Loan as of the date of disbursement, although it is normally capitalized with the principal when repayment begins. As of July 1, 2013, once a student has received subsidized loans for 150% of the published time of their academic program, the student may not receive any additional subsidized loans. All remaining loan eligibility will be for unsubsidized loans.

# Financial aid at our school continued

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**Amount:** Undergraduate students may borrow combinations of Subsidized and Unsubsidized Federal Direct Student Loans up to the maximum amounts shown in the Federal Loan Limits chart on page 11.

Independent students and dependent students whose parents cannot borrow under the Federal Direct PLUS Loan program may borrow the maximum annual amounts shown, plus an annual maximum of \$4,000 in Unsubsidized Federal Direct Student Loans for the first and second grade levels, and \$5,000 in Unsubsidized Federal Direct Student Loans for the third and fourth grade levels.

An origination fee is deducted from the amount borrowed for both Subsidized and Unsubsidized Federal Direct Student Loans. Maximum loan amounts may be reduced for loan periods less than an academic year and if the student has previous loans. Please contact Student Financial Services for the most current amounts.

**How to apply:** Visit [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and visit <https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/index.action> to complete the Federal Direct Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN). You will also need to complete Direct Loan Entrance Counseling, also available at <https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/index.action>. Be sure to notify your Student Financial Aid Officer that you have completed the Federal Direct Loan MPN and Entrance Counseling.

**Repayment of subsidized loans:** Repayment begins six months after you leave school or drop below half-time status. While you are in school and maintain at least half-time enrollment status, the interest is subsidized by the federal government.

**Repayment of unsubsidized loans:** Your first payment of principal is due six months after you leave school or drop below half-time status. You can pay the interest quarterly while you are attending school, or it can be accrued during the in-school and six-month grace periods. If it accrues, it is added to the principal when you begin to repay the loan. See your Student Financial Aid Officer to obtain a sample loan repayment schedule.

**How payments are made:** Federal loans are sent directly to the school. The loan funds are usually automatically credited to your tuition account prior to the beginning of each term. First-time students will have their first loan disbursement delayed 30 days. See Student Financial Services for details. If your loan funds have not been received when you start class, we will defer payment for that portion of your school charges until the funds are received, as long as all of the paperwork has been completed.

**Aggregate limits:** There is a lifetime maximum amount of Federal Direct Loan funds that students may borrow. These maximums include funds borrowed at all colleges for all programs. If you have previously attended another institution and borrowed federal funds, you should be aware of your cumulative total amount borrowed to date, and these federal limits:

**Lifetime loan limits:** Dependent students: \$31,000 (up to \$23,000 of which may be subsidized loans)

Independent students and dependent students whose parents aren't eligible for Federal Direct PLUS Loans: \$57,500 (up to \$23,000 of which may be subsidized loans)

**For detailed information, refer to the Federal Loan Limits chart on page 11.**

The Federal Student Aid Ombudsman Group of the U.S. Department of Education is dedicated to helping resolve disputes related to Direct Loans, Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program Loans, Guaranteed Student Loans, and Perkins Loans. The Ombudsman Group is a neutral, informal, and confidential resource to help resolve disputes about your federal student loans. You can contact the Ombudsman at: 877-557-2575 or 202-275-0549; U.S. Department of Education, FSA Ombudsman Group, 830 First Street, N. E., Fourth Floor, Washington, D.C. 20202-5144; or online at <http://studentaid.gov/repay-loans/disputes/prepare>.

For more details, please refer to The Guide to Federal Student Aid at <https://studentaid.ed.gov/resources>.

# Financial aid at our school continued

## Federal Direct Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (Federal Direct PLUS)

**Description:** These loans are made by the U.S. Department of Education directly to parents of dependent students. The interest rates for loans disbursed on or after July 1 of each year will be calculated based on Treasury bill rates as of June 1 (plus an additional add-on rate). Since interest rates are calculated every year, it is likely you will have different interest rates on subsequent loans as well as your prior federal loans. Once calculated, the interest rate for that loan will not change. Contact Student Financial Services for current interest rates. The Department of Education will require a credit evaluation to determine a parent's eligibility for this loan. A parent may borrow an amount equal to the difference between a student's educational costs and the total amount of other financial aid a student receives for each academic year. An origination fee will be deducted from the amount borrowed.

**How to apply:** The parent who will be the borrower must complete a Federal Direct PLUS Loan Request at <https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/index.action>. Be sure to notify the Student Financial Aid Officers at your school that your parent has applied for a Federal Direct PLUS Loan.

**Repayment:** Repayment begins within 60 days after the loan is fully disbursed to the student account at the school. See your Student Financial Aid Officer to obtain a sample repayment plan.

**How payments are made:** The U.S. Department of Education electronically transmits loan funds to the school. The loan proceeds will automatically be transferred to the student's account; this usually occurs prior to the beginning of each term, provided all paperwork has been accurately completed and submitted on time. See your Student Financial Aid Officer for more details.

Federal Loan Limits			
Year	Dependent Undergraduate Student (except students whose parents are unable to obtain PLUS Loans)	Independent Undergraduate Student (and dependent students whose parents are unable to obtain PLUS Loans)	Graduate and Professional Degree Student
First Year	\$5,500—No more than \$3,500 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.	\$9,500—No more than \$3,500 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.	\$20,500—As of July 1, 2012, subsidized loans are no longer available to graduate and professional degree students.
Second Year	\$6,500—No more than \$4,500 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.	\$10,500—No more than \$4,500 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.	
Third and Beyond (each year)	\$7,500—No more than \$5,500 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.	\$12,500—No more than \$5,500 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.	
Maximum Total Debt from Stafford Loans When You Graduate (aggregate loan limits)	\$31,000—No more than \$23,000 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.	\$57,500—No more than \$23,000 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.	\$138,500—No more than \$65,500 of this amount may be in subsidized loans. The graduate debt limit includes Stafford Loans received for undergraduate study.

**Note:** These annual loan limit amounts are the maximum amounts you can borrow in both subsidized and unsubsidized loans in an academic year. You can have one type of loan or a combination of both. Because you cannot borrow more than your cost of attendance minus any other financial aid you'll get, you may receive less than the annual maximum amounts. The maximum annual and total loan limits include any Stafford Loans you may have received under the FFEL Program. Graduate and professional students enrolled in certain health profession programs may receive additional unsubsidized Stafford Loan amounts each academic year beyond those shown above. For these students, there is also an increased aggregate loan limit of \$224,000 (maximum \$65,500 subsidized).

# Financial aid at our school continued

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## Payment plan options

The Art Institutes offers payment plan options that enable payments to be made on a monthly basis while attending the school. Our Student Financial Aid Officers review payment plan options with students while reviewing their financial aid awards to help identify the best possible combination of financial resources to meet their needs.

## Federal Work-Study (FWS)

Through the Federal Work-Study program, you have the opportunity to earn part of your educational expenses by working part-time, on or off school premises, including possibly working in a community service position, depending on availability. A limited number of jobs are available, with priority given to students with the greatest need as determined by the results of the FAFSA. The maximum a student can earn through this program is the amount of unmet need—the difference between the student's educational costs and the total amount of their other financial aid. Wages from this program will be paid directly to you as you earn them. As with any job, several weeks may pass before you receive your first paycheck, so you will need to cover your own expenses initially. Students are paid every two weeks. Contact Student Financial Services for more details.

## Veterans Education Act

The Veterans Education Act provides varying levels of assistance to eligible veterans, disabled veterans, and their dependents. If you are a veteran or the dependent of a veteran, contact the local Veterans Affairs office in your region, visit [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov), or visit the website listed on the back cover of this publication for more information.

## Department of Defense

### Military tuition assistance

Military tuition assistance is a benefit paid to eligible members of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard. Each service has its own criteria for eligibility, obligated service, application process, and restrictions. The benefit pays \$166 per quarter credit or \$250 per semester credit up to a maximum of \$4,500 per fiscal year for Army, Marines, and Air Force and a maximum of \$4,000 per fiscal year for Navy and Coast Guard..

### MyCAA

MyCAA is available to spouses of active duty service members in pay grades E-1E-5, W1-W2, and O1-O2, including spouses of activated Guard and Reserve members within those ranks. (Spouses of Guard and Reserve members must be able to start and complete their courses while their sponsor is on Title 10 orders.) The benefit pays a maximum of \$4,000 with a fiscal year cap of \$2,000. The military spouse must finish the program of study within a specified time frame from the start date of the first course. The benefit is limited to associate degrees, certification, and licensors.

## Vocational rehabilitation programs

Every state has programs to help people with physical and mental disabilities. Some states offer retraining programs for people who have been out of the job market for a length of time. Eligibility criteria and amounts vary according to state regulations. For more information, contact your local vocational rehabilitation office, unemployment office, or your state department of human resources.

## The Art Institutes awards, grants, and scholarship opportunities

Each school of The Art Institutes may offer various scholarships, awards, and grants every year to new and continuing students. Offers may be based on program of study, attendance, financial need, academic achievement, and community-service credentials. Contact the Admissions Department to find out how to apply for these and other available regional and local scholarships, awards, and grants.

# Financial aid at our school continued

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## The Art Institutes school-based scholarship competition

Each school may award a number of these scholarships in various amounts to high school seniors and international students. Scholarship awards are based on the quality of projects submitted by students.

## The Art Institutes national scholarships

Each year, The Art Institutes schools offer national scholarships to high school seniors who demonstrate a commitment to education and outstanding capabilities in their chosen area of study. Contact The Art Institutes school of your choice for additional information about the following scholarships. Amounts vary. Scholarships do not have to be repaid.

## The Art Institutes scholarship competitions

Tuition scholarship competitions are held in the areas of design, fashion, and culinary. For information about award amounts, entry instructions, and entry deadlines, go to <https://content.edmc.edu/assets/pdf/AI/fy18-scholarship-flyer.pdf>.

## National organization scholarships for Art Institutes students

Students at The Art Institutes schools are eligible for scholarships awarded by several national scholastic and professional organizations. Winners are selected by committees of working professionals independent of The Art Institutes schools. Contact the Admissions Department at The Art Institutes school of your choice for details about the following scholarships. Amounts vary. Scholarships do not have to be repaid.

## National Art Honor Society

High school seniors who belong to the National Art Honor Society may apply for an Art Institutes National Art Honor Society Scholarship.

## SkillsUSA

Tuition scholarships are awarded to students who compete in national SkillsUSA championships. First- through third-place winners in 3-D imaging/animation, advertising design, culinary, photography, video production, and web design are eligible. Scholarships are limited and are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Information about the SkillsUSA Championships may be obtained from your local SkillsUSA chapter or at [www.skillsusa.org](http://www.skillsusa.org).

## Scholastic Art and Writing Competition

Four \$10,000 scholarships are awarded annually by The Art Institutes to selected winners of the Scholastic Art and Writing Competition. Scholarships are limited and are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Visit [www.scholastic.com/artandwriting](http://www.scholastic.com/artandwriting) for more information.

## Careers through Culinary Arts Program (C-CAP)

Students enrolled in C-CAP may compete for a full-tuition scholarship for either a two-year or four-year degree at an Art Institutes school offering a culinary program. Visit [www.ccapinc.org](http://www.ccapinc.org) for more information.

## FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America)

First- through third-place winners in the following competitions will be awarded tuition scholarships of varying amounts to an Art Institutes school offering the following programs:

- Culinary Arts: National FCCLA Culinary Competition and Management Competition
- Fashion: National FCCLA Fashion Design and Fashion Construction Competitions
- Interior Design: National FCCLA Interior Design Competition

**Applicants must be high school seniors graduating in the competing year to be eligible for the scholarship.**



# Student consumer information

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All students are strongly encouraged to visit our Consumer Information site here, <https://www.aionline.edu/consumer-information/> for helpful financial resources like our Net Price Calculator and financial literacy tools through iGrad, along with important information on student success including graduation and placement rates, student services, academic programs and policies, and much more, to help you successfully navigate through your education and beyond. If you have any questions or would like any specific consumer information in writing, your admissions or financial aid representative can provide them for you.

If you're new to The Art Institute of Pittsburgh online, visit <http://www.aionline.edu/> to access the web pages listed below. When typing any of these links into your browser, all hyphens and other punctuation marks that appear here must be included.

Current students may log into the student portal site at <https://mycampus.artinstitutes.edu/portal/server.pt>.

**FAFSA code:**

**007470**

Here are specific consumer information links to be aware of.

## **FERPA Policy**

To find out more about your rights as a student, including your rights and procedures to view your education records, you can review our FERPA policy here. <https://content.edmc.edu/assets/pdf/AI/Student-Consumer-Information/FERPA-Policies/ferpa-policy-pittsburgh.pdf>

## **Jeanne Clery Crime Report**

Your health and safety are a priority. Information about our security policies and crime statistics can be found in our crime report. <https://content.edmc.edu/assets/pdf/AI/Student-Consumer-Information/Crime-Reports/crime-report-pittsburgh.pdf>

## **Voter Registration**

U.S. citizens of voting age can find voter information in accordance to their state of residence online. [http://www.eac.gov/voter\\_resources/contact\\_your\\_state.aspx](http://www.eac.gov/voter_resources/contact_your_state.aspx)

## **Drug and Alcohol Policies**

Policies regarding sanctions for drug and alcohol use can be found at this link. <http://content.edmc.edu/assets/pdf/AI/Student-Consumer-Information/Drug-Alcohol-Policy/drug-alcohol-policy-pittsburgh.pdf>

## **Gainful Employment**

Since The Art Institutes comprises several institutions, see [aiprograms.info](http://aiprograms.info) for program duration, tuition, fees, other costs, median debt, federal salary data, alumni success, and other important info. For Gainful Employment information specific to The Art Institute of Pittsburgh—Online Division, please visit <http://new.artinstitutes.edu/programs-info?locationid=21>

[www.aionline.edu/](http://www.aionline.edu/)



**The Art Institute  
of Pittsburgh®  
Online Division**

420 Boulevard of the Allies  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1301  
1.877.872.8869  
[www.aionline.edu](http://www.aionline.edu)

The Art Institute of Pittsburgh—Online Division is one of The Art Institutes, a system of schools throughout the United States. Programs, credential levels, technology, and scheduling options vary by school and are subject to change. Not all online programs are available to residents of all U.S. states. Most institutions in The Art Institutes system are owned by Dream Center Education Holdings, LLC. Some institutions in The Art Institutes system are owned by Education Management Corporation. Some institutions in The Art Institutes system are campuses of Argosy University. The Art Institute of Pittsburgh—Online Division, 1400 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 © 2017. The Art Institutes. All rights reserved. Our email address is [materialsreview@aii.edu](mailto:materialsreview@aii.edu).

The Art Institute of Pittsburgh programs are exempt from the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education authorization as an online or distance delivered program and the institution does not have a physical presence in the state. The exemption from authorization is a provision under 20 AAC 17.015 (a)(5).

Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board certification does not constitute an endorsement of any institution, course or degree program. Such certification merely indicates that certain minimum standards have been met under the rules and regulations of institutional certification as defined in Arkansas Code §6-61-301.

The Kansas Board of Regents has approved The Art Institute of Pittsburgh to operate in the State of Kansas.

The Art Institute of Pittsburgh is registered with the New Mexico Higher Education Department.

The Art Institute of Pittsburgh is approved by the Ohio State Board of Career Colleges and Schools, 30 East Broad Street, Suite 2481, Columbus, OH 43215, 614-466-2752. OH Registration # 73-01-0371T.

The Art Institute of Pittsburgh has been approved and is legally authorized to do business in the state of Wisconsin as a private postsecondary school, subject to the provisions of §38.50 Wisconsin Statutes, and all administrative rules adopted pursuant to the statutes. Approval includes on those programs and those locations specifically approved by the Board (201 West Washington Ave, 3rd Floor; Madison, WI 53703; 608-266-1996; <http://eab.state.wi.us/>). Information contained in this publication is subject to change.

See [aiprograms.info](http://aiprograms.info) for program duration, tuition, fees and other costs, median debt, salary data, alumni success, and other important info.