

Questions To Ask Financial Aid Officers

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Questions to Ask Financial Aid Officers

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>

Once you identify a college that is a good fit for you, you should investigate your financial aid options. Each college has its own financial aid policies — guidelines for deciding who qualifies for aid, what type of aid is available, and similar questions.

To be sure you understand what is available, check to see if the answers to these questions appear on the college's website or in their print materials. If not, schedule a phone meeting or an interview with a member of the financial aid staff if you're going to be visiting the college.

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What to Ask

The financial aid officers can answer specific questions about costs, the financial aid process and options for financing your education. Here are a dozen questions to get you started:



1. What's the average total cost – including tuition and fees, books and supplies, room and board, travel, and other personal expenses – for the first year?
2. How much have your costs increased over the last three years?
3. Does financial need have an effect on admission decisions?
4. What is the priority deadline to apply for financial aid and when am I notified about financial aid award decisions?
5. How is financial aid affected if I apply under an early decision or early action program?
6. Does the college offer need-based and merit-based financial aid?
7. Are there scholarships available that aren't based on financial need and do I need to complete a separate application for them?
8. If the financial aid package the college offers isn't enough, are there any conditions under which it can be reconsidered, such as changes in my family's financial situation or my enrollment status (or that of a family member)?
9. How does the aid package change from year to year?
10. What are the terms of the programs included in the aid package?
11. What are the academic requirements or other conditions for the renewal of financial aid, including scholarships?
12. When can I expect to receive bills from the college and is there an option to spread the yearly payment over equal monthly installments?

State Grants

State aid can be a significant portion of a students' financial aid package. Almost every state education agency has at least one grant or scholarship available to residents, and many have a long list of student aid programs. Eligibility is usually restricted to state residents attending a college in-state, but that's not always the case. There are annual deadlines for most programs (if you miss a deadline, be sure to try again next year).

[Click Here](#) to look up information about aid available from your state. This site provides information on grants, scholarships, and other financial aid for college students from the state, including federally-supported state programs such as Byrd scholarships and LEAP (Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership) grants.



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