



WINTHROP
UNIVERSITY

Financial Aid Q & A

I saw my aid package...



- Why don't I have the Pell Grant?
 - All the information on your FAFSA determines if you're eligible
 - The lower the family income on the FAFSA the better the chances you qualify
 - We recommend filing a FAFSA each year, even if you weren't eligible this year
- How do I qualify for other need-based funding?
 - Our funding is limited
 - Awarded on a first-come, first-served basis
 - File your FAFSA as close to October 1st as possible!



Am I eligible for anything else?



- Search for outside scholarships.
 - You can use internet searches but we suggest checking with your high school guidance counselor and in your local community.
- What's your major?
 - If you have LIFE or Palmetto Fellows you may qualify for a LIFE Enhancement in your second year if you're a Math/Science major
 - If you plan to teach there may be teacher aid available like the [federal TEACH Grant](#) or [SC Teacher loan](#).



What if I need a loan?



You are automatically awarded some federal loan eligibility if you file a FAFSA. If you accept this funding, make sure you complete Entrance Counseling and the MPN at studentaid.gov

If you need additional funding, your options include:

- [Parent PLUS Loan](#)
 - Federal, credit based loan in the parent's name if approved
 - If denied, the student will be offered an additional \$4,000 federal student loan as a result of the denial.
 - The application for 2020-21 will be available at studentaid.gov later this spring
- Private Loan
 - Credit based loan through a private or outside lender. Students can apply but will need a cosigner.
 - More information as well as a lender list on our website: <https://www.winthrop.edu/finaid/privateloan/>

What if I don't want loans?



- You have the option to decline your federal loans in Wingspan.
 - Be cautious of using the “Accept All Offers” option in Wingspan if you want to avoid using student loans.
- WU offers interest free payment plans.
 - Sign up in Wingspan once you receive your first bill
 - Managed by the billing office, [Student Financial Services](#)



Speaking of billing...



- Bills will be issued by Student Financial Services (usually in July)
- Any remaining balance (billed costs minus financial aid) will be due in August
- If you plan to pursue additional loan funding to help cover your balance you should do so as early as possible!
- Loan processing can take 2-3 weeks so waiting until you get your bill to apply may mean additional loan funding won't be on your account by the fee payment deadline.
- Contact our office if you need help estimating your balance

Do I have to make a decision on my aid now?



- No! You have time to think about what aid you want to use
- We recommend making decisions in Wingspan by early July so any aid you accept will appear on your fall bill.
- Find instructions on how to view and accept aid in Wingspan here: <https://www.winthrop.edu/finaid/accepting-aid.aspx>
- You have the option to accept a partial amount of an offered loan in Wingspan
- If you need to change your decision once you submit it, contact our office



How do I make sure I don't miss anything?



- We will contact you via Winthrop email and Wingspan
 - Check these platforms often and become familiar with how to use them
 - If you continue to receive duplicate emails (missing information, etc.) **CONTACT US**. We probably need your help to finalize your aid
 - We're available all summer so contact us by email anytime!





Thank You!

Contact us with questions!

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