

**Financial Aid Handbook**

**The Office of Enrollment Services supports Trinity’s mission by diligently working to provide financial assistance, information and advice to students and parents in order to remove barriers in meeting their higher education expenses, all while fulfilling their responsibility as stewards of university as well as federal, state and institutional funds**

**WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOU!**

**Office of Enrollment Services**

**Location**

Trinity Washington Main Campus , Main Hall, First Floor, Room 154

125 Michigan Avenue NE, Washington DC, 20017

**Hours**

Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

1-202-884-9530 Fax: 202.884.9527

Visit our website at <https://discover.trinitydc.edu/enrollment> Contact us by email at enrollmentservices@trinitydc.edu

**Trinity’s Enrollment Services Office encourages all students to apply for financial assistance.**

**Get Started!**

Review the information in this handbook

 Complete all necessary steps found on the checklist included

Make sure to apply **before the deadlines**.

If you have questions, feel free to call or stop by our offices.

**Enrollment Services Advisors are available to help!**

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***Disclaimer: While this publication was prepared on the basis of the best information available at the time, all information is subject to change without notice.***

***The Office of Enrollment Services reserves the right to revise offers of financial aid any time during the academic year or during a student’s period of enrollment based on availability of funds, changes in regulations, procedures mandated by federal or state authorities, and/or changes in Trinity’s policies and procedures.***

**What is Financial Aid ?**

**Financial aid refers to a variety of financial aid sources are available to help you pay for college or career school. It is money in the form of grants, scholarships, work-study, loans, or a benefit from completing community service or military service to help students pay for education after high school.**

**Aid comes from various sources, with a majority of aid coming from the U.S. Department of Education. Aid also comes from states, including the District of Columbia. Trinity Washington also supports its student by providing opportunities to apply for Institutional Grants and Scholarships.**

**What’s a Grant?**

A grant is a form of financial aid that doesn’t have to be repaid (unless, for example, you withdraw from school and owe a refund). A variety of federal grants are available, including Pell Grants, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG), Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grants, and Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants.

**What’s a Scholarship?**

Many nonprofit and private organizations offer scholarships to help students pay for college or career school. This type of free money, which is sometimes based on specific criteria like academic merit, talent, or a particular area of study, can make a real difference in helping you manage your education expenses

**What’s Federal Work Study?**

The Federal Work-Study Program allows students to earn money to pay for school by working part-time.

**What’s a Student Loan?**

When you receive a student loan, you are **borrowing money** to attend a college or career school. **You must repay the loan** as well as interest that accrues. It is important to understand your **repayment options** so you can successfully repay your loan

**What are Veterans Benefits ?**

There are special aid programs or additional aid eligibility for serving in the military or for being the spouse or child of a veteran.

**What types of Financial Aid assistance is available at Trinity?**

**Financial aid refers to a variety of financial aid sources are available to help you pay for college or career school. It is money in the form of grants, scholarships, work-study, loans, or a benefit from completing community service or military service to help students pay for education after high school.**

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**Grants**

* + 1. **Federal**

The Pell Grant and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG) are available to students with the lowest Estimated Family Contribution (EFC). A FAFSA or Federal Application for Federal Student aid must be completed at www.studentaid.gov

* + 1. **State**
1. The DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education awards the DC Tuition Assistance Grant (DC TAG) and the DC Mayor’s Scholars Undergraduate Program grants to eligible DC residents enrolling as undergraduate students. More information is available at <https://osse.dc.gov/page/scholarships-and-grants-students>
	* 1. **Institutional**
			1. **Leadership Award:** Students enrolled in Trinity’s College of Arts and Sciences are considered for the Leadership scholarship at the time of admission based on their high school GPA. Awards range from $8,000 to $15,000 per academic year.
			2. **Trinity Nursing Award** :Students who enroll full-time to the BSN program in the School of Nursing and Health Professions are considered for this grant. Award amounts range from $5,000 to $10,000.

**Scholarships**

1. **Dreamers**

Trinity is a partner with the DREAM.US scholarship program for Dreamers who are not eligible for Federal student aid. You do not need DACA or TPS to apply! You can apply if you came to the country before November 1, 2014.

In addition, Trinity offers a matching scholarship to students who are awarded a DREAM.US National or Opportunity scholarship so that their full tuition and fees are covered. To apply, go to <https://www.thedream.us/>

1. **District of Columbia**

DC high school graduates are eligible to apply for the DC College Access Program (DC CAP) scholarships with their DC CAP counselor. More information is available at <https://dccap.org/hs-students/dccap>

1. **Institutional Scholarships**
2. **Conway Nursing Scholarship** : Available by application to new students in the College of Arts and Sciences who are interested in the Nursing program. Awards are $10,000 per academic year.
3. **Trinity Alumni Scholarship:** Scholarship is awarded by admissions to students who are admitted to the College of Arts and Sciences who identify the name of their relative who is a previous Alumni on their admissions application. Award is a one-time $2000.
4. **Women in Housing Finance Scholarship:** Funded annually by the Association of Women in Housing Finance to be awarded to a student majoring in Business with financial need, enrolled in the School of Professional Studies
5. **Trinity SPS Early Childhood Education Scholarship:** Awards up to the amount of tuition, less any Federal Pell Grant funds, to students majoring in Early Childhood Education who work in a DC-based childcare center or school in early childhood education.
6. **Girl Scouts and Troop Leaders Scholarship:**
	1. ***Gold Award Scouts: $5,000***
	Students who have completed the Gold Award in Girl Scouting and have been accepted into the College of Arts and Sciences, will receive an award of $5,000 annually.
	2. ***Silver Award Scouts: $4,000***
	Students who have completed the Silver Award in Girl Scouting and have been accepted into the College of Arts and Sciences, will receive an award of $4,000 annually.
	3. ***Girl Scouts Scholarship: $3,000***
	Active participants in Girl Scouting and those that have been accepted into the College of Arts and Sciences, will receive an award of $3,000 annually.
	4. ***Troop Leader Scholarship***: Scholarships for Girl Scout Troop Leaders taking undergraduate courses at Trinity in the School for Professional Studies. Awards are a one time, $1000.
		1. Students enrolled in Trinity’s College of Arts and Sciences and who apply for Financial Aid are **automatically** considered for the following scholarships. No other application is required.
			1. **D.F. Antonelli, Jr., and Judith D. Antonelli Scholarship**
			2. **Helen and Marie F. Rotterman, Class of 1904, Scholarship Trust**
			3. Paul and Camille Lindsay Aiken Memorial Scholarship
			4. Clifford and Adele Alexander Scholarship
			5. D.F. Antonelli, Jr., and Judith D. Antonelli Scholarship
			6. Boston Chapter Partial Scholarship
			7. Mrs. James H. Bride Partial Scholarship
			8. Brooklyn Partial Scholarship
			9. The Right Rev. Msgr. John A. Butler Memorial Scholarship
			10. Claire F. Cahill Memorial Scholarship
			11. Paul W. Chapin Scholarship
			12. Chicago Partial Scholarship
			13. Class of 1962 and 1965 Scholarship
			14. Class of 1964 Scholarship
			15. Mary J. Dempsey Memorial Partial Scholarship
			16. Dorothy Gleeson Dolan Scholarship
			17. James P. Farrell Memorial Scholarship
			18. Lillian A. Fay, Ladies Auxiliary of the Ancient Order of Hibernians of America, Partial Scholarship
			19. The Sr. Margaret Finnegan, S.N.D., ’54 and Sr. Regina Finnegan, S.N.D., ’53 Scholarship
			20. Carol Lynn Bucca Fusco ’69 Scholarship
			21. Ellen A. Ganey ’27 Scholarship
			22. Sr. Lidwin Genau/Class of 1967 Scholarship
			23. The Right Rev. Msgr. Charles P. Grannan Partial Scholarship
			24. Paul B. and Katherine E. Hanrahan Scholarship
			25. Bishop Harkins Partial Scholarship
			26. Maria Sullivan Harrigan Partial Scholarship
			27. William Randolph Hearst Scholarship
			28. Catherine Baker Holahan Partial Scholarship
			29. William and Sarah Hunter Partial Scholarship
			30. Sr. Superior Julia Partial Scholarship
			31. The Right Rev. William J. Kerby Partial Scholarship
			32. Eileen Ryan Lahart ’54 Scholarship
			33. Margaret Larson ’10 Partial Scholarship
			34. Joseph J. Leary Scholarship
			35. Martha T. Logan Scholarship
			36. Catherine Lynch Partial Scholarship
			37. Sr. Mary Partial Scholarship
			38. Lucie Jane Desloge McAnany ’33 Scholarship
			39. Anne Marie Condon McGovern ’50/Class of 1950 Scholarship
			40. Evelyn Ruth McIntee ’32 Scholarship
			41. Julia A. McMahon ’30 Scholarship
			42. Louise Moore Partial Scholarship
			43. Mount Notre Dame Partial Scholarship
			44. New England Financial Aid Fund Scholarship
			45. Notre Dame Alumnae Partial Scholarship, Roxbury, MA
			46. Notre Dame Alumnae Partial Scholarship, Tyngsboro, MA
			47. Agnes Perrot O’Connor ’24 Scholarship
			48. Florence O’Brien Patterson ’26 Scholarship
			49. Parsons Family Foundation Scholarship
			50. Sr. Superior Raphael Partial Scholarship
			51. Rhode Island Women’s Partial Scholarship
			52. Helen and Marie F. Rotterman, Class of 1904, Scholarship Trust
			53. St. Louis Partial Scholarship
			54. Frances Mary Saul ’24 Scholarship
			55. Rev. Thomas Scully Parochial School Partial Scholarship
			56. Margaret and George Skirm Memorial Partial Scholarship
			57. Ivan H. Stepich Memorial Scholarship
			58. Margaret Walsh ’21 Memorial Partial Scholarship
			59. Mary Dunn Walsh ’15 Scholarship

**Trinity also maintains a list of scholarship programs at** [**https://discover.trinitydc.edu/enrollment/outside-scholarships/**](https://discover.trinitydc.edu/enrollment/outside-scholarships/)

**Tuition Discounts**

1. **Employees of the District of Columbia** (other than DC Public Schools) are eligible for a **10% tuition discount** for programs offered through Trinity’s [School of Professional Studies](https://www.trinitydc.edu/sps/).
2. Employees who have tuition benefits administered by [**Edcor**](http://www.edcor.com/)are eligible for a **15% tuition discount** on Trinity Washington University’s undergraduate and graduate programs in the Schools of [Education](https://www.trinitydc.edu/education/), [Nursing & Health Professions](https://www.trinitydc.edu/nursing-health/), [Professional Studies](https://www.trinitydc.edu/sps/), and [Business & Graduate Studies](https://www.trinitydc.edu/bgs/).
3. **Employees of Holy Cross Hospital** are eligible for a **15% tuition** discount for Holy Cross nurses in Trinity’s RN-to-BSN and MSN programs and extends the discount to Holy Cross employees enrolling in the Schools of [Education](https://www.trinitydc.edu/education/), [Nursing & Health Professions](https://www.trinitydc.edu/nursing-health/), [Professional Studies](https://www.trinitydc.edu/sps/), and [Business & Graduate Studies](https://www.trinitydc.edu/bgs/).

**Loans**

***Remember a loan is money that you borrow and must pay back with interest.***

1. **Federal Direct Loans**
	1. **Direct Subsidized Loans** are loans available to eligible undergraduate students who demonstrate [financial need](https://studentaid.gov/taxonomy/term/94?width=300px&height=auto&className=glossaryterm&closeButton=true) to help cover the costs of higher education at a college or career school.
		1. **Interest does not accrue on the Subsidized loan while you are enrolled at least half-time**
		2. **Repayment on the loan begins 6 months** after you graduate or withdraw from the school
	2. **Direct Unsubsidized Loans** are loans made to eligible undergraduate, graduate, and professional students, but eligibility is not based on financial need. The school determines the amount you can borrow based on your cost of attendance and other financial aid you receive.
		1. **Interest begins to accrue on the Unsubsidized loan from the date of the first disbursement.**
		2. You are **responsible for paying the interest** on a Direct Unsubsidized Loan during all periods.
		3. **If you choose not to pay the interest while you are in school and during grace periods and deferment or**[**forbearance**](https://studentaid.gov/taxonomy/term/95?width=300px&height=auto&className=glossaryterm&closeButton=true)**periods, your interest will accrue (accumulate) and be capitalized (that is, your interest will be added to the principal amount of your loan).**

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* 1. **Direct PLUS Loans** are loans made to graduate or professional students and **Parents of dependent undergraduate students** to help pay for education expenses not covered by other financial aid.
		1. **Eligibility is not based on financial need and can be applied to cover the entire cost of attendance**
		2. A credit check is required. Borrowers who have an adverse credit history must meet additional requirements to qualify.
		3. If you are a dependent student and your parent is denied the PLUS loan because of an adverse credit history, the student may apply for an additional Direct Unsubsidized Loan.
1. **Private (Preferred and Alternate Lenders)**

**Trinity does not have a preferred private lender and does not recommend any particular private loans.**  Trinity encourages students to understand their eligibility for Federal Direct Loans before applying for any private loan.

These loans are considered consumer loans, and approval is based on a good credit history and a satisfactory debt-to-income ratio.  Borrowers should compare fees, interest rates, and repayment options before applying.

Trinity will certify any private loan requests that we receive on your behalf.

**Monthly Payment Plans**

Trinity allows students to arrange for payment of tuition in monthly installments over the course of the semester using a **monthly payment plan with no interest.**

**There is a $25 application fee.**

The plan is not available for the Summer Term, May Term, Winter Term, or accelerated sessions.

Visit <https://www.nbspayments.com/signin/4KC60> or contact Nelnet Business Solutions at 1-800-609-8056 for more information.

**Federal Work Study**

Federal Work-Study provides part-time jobs for students with financial need, allowing them to earn money to help pay education expenses. The program encourages community service work and work related to the student’s course of study.

**Things to know:**

1. You will need to apply for the Federal Work Study Award
2. You will need to be enrolled full time
3. Be a Federal Pell Grant recipient
4. You’ll earn at least the current federal minimum wage. However, you may earn more depending on the type of work you do, and the skills required for the position.
5. Your total work-study award depends on
	1. When you apply
	2. Your level of financial need, and
	3. Available funds in the school’s program
6. The amount you earn can’t exceed your total Federal Work-Study award.
7. When assigning work hours, your employer or your school’s financial aid office will consider your class schedule and your academic progress.

**Federal Work Study- Job Description Summary (On and Off Campus)**

* + - 1. **Admission Ambassadors**

Support the Admissions department by conducting campus tours, working at special events such as Accepted Students Days and Preview Days, and reaching out to new students by phone.

* + - 1. **Trinity Library Assistant**

Students work at the circulation desk during Library hours. Preference for students with library work experience

* + - 1. **Enrollment Services Assistant**

Students support Enrollment Services by creating student files, filing documents, preparing mailings, answering general questions from students and taking messages.

* + - 1. **Trinity Center for Women and Girls in Sports- Desk Assistant**

Students staff the check-in desk at the Trinity Center, checking IDs and answering questions from visitors

* + - 1. **Academic Services – Tutor**

Students work in the Academic Services and Writing Centers, providing tutoring support for specific courses. Tutors must be recommended by Trinity faculty and have earned A or B grades in the courses they are tutoring for.

* + - 1. **Campus Ministry Assistant**

Students provide administrative support for the Campus Minister related to community service projects and other student activities

**What are the Eligibility Criteria?**

1. **Federal Aid**
2. Be a **citizen** or eligible noncitizen of the United States.
3. Have a valid Social Security Number. (Students from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau are exempt from this requirement.)
4. Have a high school diploma or a General Education Development (GED) certificate or have completed homeschooling. If you don’t, you may still be eligible for federal student aid if you were enrolled in college or career school prior to July 1, 2012. Go to [https://studentaid.ed.gov/eligibility/basic-criteria](https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/eligibility/requirements) for additional information.
5. Be enrolled in an eligible program as a regular student seeking a degree or certificate.
6. **Maintain satisfactory academic progress as defined in the academic catalog**
7. Not owe a refund on a federal student grant or be in default on a federal student loan.
8. Not have a conviction for the possession or sale of illegal drugs for an offense that occurred while you were receiving federal student aid (such as grants, work-study, or loans). If you have such a conviction, you must complete the Student Aid Eligibility Worksheet to determine if you are eligible for aid or partially eligible for aid.
9. **Institutional Aid**
10. Trinity does not have a citizenship requirement for Institutional Aid
11. **You must meet individual grant or scholarship criteria**
12. You must have a financial need to cover the cost of tuition and fees. Institutional Aid is not available to cover other costs in your total cost of attendance
13. Must meet application deadlines

**How is your Financial Need Determined?**

**What is Financial Need?**

Financial need is the difference between what it costs to attend a certain school and what the family can reasonably be expected to contribute toward the cost of attendance.

**Cost of Attendance- Expected Family Contribution (EFC)= Need**

**What is Cost of Attendance?**

The cost of attendance includes fixed costs such as tuition, fees, room & board and personal expenses such as books and supplies, transportation, off-campus room and board, and miscellaneous personal expenses.

The Department of Education requires that each university prepare budgets based on average costs of its students living at home with parents, on-campus housing, and off-campus housing.

These cost of attendance budgets are adjusted depending on the number of semesters enrolled and the enrollment status (full time, 3/4-time, 1/2 time and less than 1/2 time).Your actual personal expenses will depend on how far you live from school and your lifestyle.

### **What is Expected Family Contribution (EFC) , How is it Calculated?**

Your EFC is calculated using a standard congressional formula.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) collects information such as family size, number in college, whether you are dependent or independent of parents, and you and your family’s income and assets. This information is used by the federal government to determine what the family can reasonably be expected to contribute toward your education.

### **What if the EFC does not reflect your or your parent’s current financial situation?**

Contact the Financial Aid office to start an appeal. The office will review your current circumstances and financial situation and be able to make a determination if it can document your special circumstance and recalculate your Estimated Financial Contribution and your need for additional Financial Aid. To submit a financial aid appeal, send an email to enrollmentservices@trinitydc.edu

**Net Price Calculator Tool**

**You can use this tool to get an estimate of your EFC, Cost of Attendance and Estimated Financial Aid:**

<https://discover.trinitydc.edu/enrollment/net-price-calculator/>

**What are the Financial Aid policies I should be aware of?**

**Satisfactory Academic Progress**

Students receiving Financial Aid must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress toward their degrees in order to remain eligible for both Federal and Trinity funds.

To make satisfactory academic progress:

1. Undergraduate students must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0;
2. Graduate students must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0.
3. All students must complete at least two-thirds of attempted credits.
4. All students must complete their degree within 150% of the maximum timeframe. You have exceeded the maximum time frame when you have taken

**Return to Title IV & Institutional Refunds**

Trinity is required by federal statute to recalculate federal financial aid eligibility for students who withdraw, drop out, are dismissed, or take a leave of absence prior to completing 60% of a payment period or term.

 The federal Title IV financial aid programs must be recalculated in these situations:

1. If a student leaves the institution prior to completing 60% of a payment period or term, the financial aid office recalculates eligibility for Title IV funds. Recalculation is based on the percentage of earned aid using the following Federal Return of Title IV funds formula:

**Percentage of payment period or term completed = the number of days completed up to the withdrawal date divided by the total days in the payment period or term**

(Any break of five days or more is not counted as part of the days in the term.)

This percentage is also the percentage of earned aid.

1. Funds are returned to the appropriate federal program based on the percentage of unearned aid using the following formula:

**Aid to be returned = (100% of the aid that could be disbursed minus the percentage of earned aid) multiplied by the total amount of aid that could have been disbursed during the payment period or term**

If a student earned less aid than was disbursed, the institution would be required to return a portion of the funds and the student would be required to return a portion of the funds. Keep in mind that when Title IV funds are returned, the student borrower may owe a debit balance to the institution.
If a student earned more aid than was disbursed to him/her, the institution would owe the student a post-withdrawal disbursement which must be paid within 120 days of the student’s withdrawal.

The institution must return the amount of Title IV funds for which it is responsible no later than 30 days after the date of the determination of the date of the student’s withdrawal.

**Refunds are returned in the following order:**

* Unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loans
* Subsidized Federal Stafford Loans
* Unsubsidized Direct Stafford Loans (other than PLUS loans)
* Subsidized Direct Stafford Loans
* Federal Perkins Loans
* Federal Parent (PLUS) Loans
* Direct PLUS Loans
* Federal Pell Grants for which a Return of funds is required
* Federal Supplemental Opportunity Grants for which a Return of funds is required

**Credit Balance**

If your financial aid award exceeds your direct costs at Trinity (tuition, room and board, etc.), you will receive a Credit Balance refund.

1. Refunds begin to be issued approximately 7-10 days after the disbursement date once attendance has been verified.
2. You may select the method in which you want your refund delivered to you in Self Service. A full description of each method can be found on the Business Office website: <http://www.trinitydc.edu/business/student-refunds/>. We encourage you to use direct deposit, the fastest and most efficient method of receiving your refund.
3. All funds issued to you by Trinity through a federal financial aid refund must be used toward educational expenses only and using these funds in any other manner is in violation of and punishable by federal law.
4. Other assistance under this Title for which a Return of funds is required (e.g., LEAP)

**Impact of Withdrawals, incompletes and Leave of Absence**

Students taking a leave of absence or withdrawing from classes who are recipients of Federal Financial Aid should contact the Financial Aid office to determine the implications of that leave/withdrawal for their financial aid program.

Any change in enrollment may result in the partial or complete loss of tuition dollars for the semester.  Students should contact the Financial Aid office to discuss individual cases.

Once you withdraw, drop below half-time enrollment, or leave school, your federal student loan goes into repayment. In most cases, however, you have a six-month grace period before you are required to start making regular payments.

**Default**

If you are delinquent on your student loan payment for 90 days or more, your loan servicer will report the delinquency to the three major national credit bureaus. If you continue to be delinquent, your loan can risk going into **default.**

**You’re considered to be in default if you don’t make your scheduled student loan payments for at** least 270 days.

The consequences of Default:

1. The entire unpaid balance of your loan and any interest you owe becomes immediately due (this is called "acceleration").
2. You can no longer receive deferment or forbearance, and you lose eligibility for other benefits, such as the ability to choose a repayment plan.
3. You lose eligibility for additional Federal Student aid.
4. The default is reported to credit bureaus, damaging your credit rating and affecting your ability to buy a car or house or to get a credit card.
5. Your wages, tax refunds and federal benefit payments may be withheld and applied toward repayment of your defaulted loan
6. Your school may withhold your academic transcript until your defaulted student loan is satisfied.

**What are my Rights and Responsibilities?**

**Rights**

* You have the right to know what financial aid is available to you, including all federal, state and institutional programs. In addition, you have the right to know the deadlines, selection criteria, terms, policies, procedures and regulations that apply to each of the programs.
* You have the right to know how your financial need was determined.
* You have the right to appeal your financial aid award if you feel there are special circumstances that were not originally taken into consideration
* You have the right to know how Trinity determines whether you are making Satisfactory Academic Progress.
* You have the right to know how and when your financial aid will be disbursed.
* You have the right to know Trinity’s Refund Policies.
* You have the right to expect that all information reported by you and/or your family will remain confidential and will not be released without your written consent according to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
* If you have a loan, you have the right to know the terms of the loan, such as interest rate, the total amount that must be repaid, the length of time you have to repay, when you must start repayment, cancellation provisions, deferment and forbearance possibilities and any special consolidation or refinancing options.
* You have the right to consolidate all your federal loans after graduation.

**Responsibilities**

* You are responsible for providing accurate and timely information to the Financial Aid Office
* You are responsible for reapplying for financial aid each and every year.
* You are responsible for submitting documentation and information requested by the Financial Aid Office in a timely manner and keeping copies for your own records.
* You are responsible for notifying Trinity of any name or address changes.
* You are responsible for notifying the Financial Aid Office of any financial awards you receive from outside resources (including scholarships, grants, Veteran’s Benefits, tuition waivers, or other educational/tuition assistance) not already listed on your Financial Aid Award Letter.
* If you borrow a student loan, you are responsible for completing loan master promissory note, entrance and exit counseling.
* You are responsible for the repayment of all loans in accordance with the terms of your promissory note.
* You are responsible for maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress.
* You are responsible for the repayment of any over award of financial aid.

**Frequently Asked Questions**

1. **How do I know if I am dependent or independent?**

For each school year, the United States Department of Education determines you are independent of your parents if:

1. You are 24 years old or older;
2. You are an orphan;
3. Are ward of the court or were until age 18;
4. Area veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces;
5. Have legal dependents other than a spouse;
6. Will be enrolled in a graduate school;
7. Are married; or
8. Can prove to the school extremely unusual circumstances that would warrant a dependency override.
9. **Will I get more financial aid if I am “independent” of my parents?**

Not necessarily. Sometimes you’ll get less.

1. **Is aid available if I already have a bachelor’s degree?**

Federal grants are not available once you obtain your first bachelor’s degree, but some loans are still available.

1. **Is there aid available for summer school?**

Yes, there is limited aid available for summer school, but you need to plan ahead. We typically offer your annual loan limits split evenly between fall and spring semesters. If you need loans for summer, you may want to borrow less for fall/spring.

### **Should I work while I’m attending college?**

Students who attempt to juggle full-time work and full-time studies may have difficulty completing their academic programs. However, students who choose to work a moderate amount often do better academically. You may find that working in campus jobs related to your career goals may be a good way to manage college costs, get experience and create new ties at Trinity.

1. **What do I do if I have accepted all of my financial aid and it is still not enough to pay for school?**

If you do not have enough federal aid to cover all costs associated with attending Trinity, we recommend speaking with our Financial Aid Office.

**Glossary of Financial Aid Tems**

**Academic year:** The time period in which a student’s academic work must be completed. Trinity follows semester system consisting of fall semester and a spring semester. Financial aid is based on the academic year and evaluated annually.

**Adjusted Gross Income:** Wages, salaries, interest, dividends, etc., minus certain deductions from income as reported on a federal income tax return. Used by the Federal Methodology to determine eligibility for Pell grants and other forms of federal financial aid.

**Award letter:** An official document, issued by the financial aid office, describing a student’s full financial aid eligibility for the academic year. This letter includes the student and parent contributions, the cost of attendance, and the amounts and types of financial aid available to the student. Financial aid award letters may be revised at the discretion of the financial aid office based on changes in family circumstance or additional information.

**Borrower:** The person who assumes legal obligations for the repayment of the loan principal plus interest. In the case of a Federal Perkins Loan, Federal Direct Loan, or Trinity Loan, the borrower is the student. In the case of the Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan, the borrower is the parent.

**Cost of attendance (COA):** An estimate of the total costs for an academic year at Trinity. COA includes tuition and fees; room and board; and allowances for books, travel costs, and personal expenses. After subtracting the expected parent contribution and student contribution, financial aid covers the remaining cost of attendance.

**Credit Balance:** The amount remaining in a student’s account after payment of all billed charges.

**Data Retrieval Tool (DRT):** The IRS Data Retrieval Tool allows students and parents to access the IRS tax return information needed to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and transfer the data directly into their FAFSA from the IRS web site. The Data Retrieval Tool is one of two options to satisfy the federal verification requirement (the other option is an IRS tax return transcript).

**Default:** Failure to repay a loan according to the terms agreed to in the master promissory note. For most federal student loans, default will occur if no payment has been made in more than 270 days (unless the borrower has requested & received a deferment or forbearance). Borrowers may experience serious legal consequences if they default; borrowers having difficulty making monthly payments can choose a different repayment plan to continue making payments & avoid default.

**Deferment:** A postponement of required payments on a loan, allowed under certain conditions (such as graduate school enrollment). During a deferment, interest does not accrue on Direct Subsidized Loans or Federal Perkins Loans; all other federal student loans will continue to accrue interest. Any unpaid interest accrued during the deferment period may be added to the principal balance of the loan(s).

**Dependency status:** The definition of an applicant as dependent or independent of parent finances in determining financial aid eligibility. Questions on the FAFSA determine dependency status for federal aid purposes. Trinity considers nearly all students “dependent” for institutional aid purposes. Dependency status for financial aid is unrelated to dependency for federal tax purposes.

**Disbursement:** The process by which funds are made available to students for use in meeting educational expenses. Financial aid funds and direct payments are disbursed to each student’s account (administered by the Bursar) to first pay any billed charges: tuition, fees. Any funds in excess of the billed charges constitute a credit balance.

**Expected Family Contribution (EFC):** A measurement of family finances based on the information provided in the FAFSA. The EFC is reported on the Student Aid Report (SAR) and used to determine eligibility for federal financial aid-for example, the Pell Grant.

**Expected student contribution:** The portion of the cost of attendance that is expected to come from each student’s summer earnings and, where applicable, savings and other student assets.

**FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid):** The basis for federal financial aid eligibility which must be completed by all U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and other eligible non-citizens who wish to be considered for financial aid. Apply online at fafsa.ed.gov.

**Federal Direct Loan:** A federal student loan, made through the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program, for which eligible students and parents borrow directly from the U.S. Department of Education at participating schools. Direct Subsidized Loans, Direct Unsubsidized Loans, Direct PLUS Loans are types of Direct Loans.

**Federal Methodology (FM):** The formulas used to determine a student’s eligibility for federal (Title IV) financial aid funds. The formulas take into account income, certain assets, certain expenses, family size and other factors. Retirement savings, home equity and non-custodial parents are not considered; stepparent finances are included. Distinct from Institutional Methodology (IM), which is used to determine eligibility for Trinity financial aid funds.

**Federal Work Study (FWS):** A form of need-based employment to help cover educational costs as part of a financial aid package. To help meet demonstrated financial need, Trinity students may be eligible for either Federal Work Study (funded by the Department of Education; eligibility based on the FAFSA) or need-based campus employment funded by the college.

**Financial need:** The portion of the cost of attendance (COA) beyond a family’s ability to contribute to college, as determined by the Office of Financial Aid. Demonstrated financial need is equal to the COA minus the family contribution (including student and parent contributions).

**Forbearance:** A period during which monthly loan payments are temporarily suspended or reduced based on certain types of financial hardship. A lender may grant forbearance at a borrower’s request if the borrower is willing but unable to make loan payments. During forbearance, principal payments are postponed but interest continues to accrue; unpaid interest accrued during the forbearance will be added to the principal balance, increasing the total amount owed. Distinct from deferment, in which loan payments are temporarily suspended because a student meets predetermined conditions, such as graduate school attendance.

**Grace period:** A period of time after a borrower graduates, leaves school, or drops below half-time enrollment during which they are not required to make payments on certain federal student loans. Some federal student loans will accrue interest during the grace period, which will be added to the principal balance of the loan when the repayment period begins.

**Grant:** Financial aid that does not need to be repaid. Many grants, including the Trinity Grant, are based on financial need (Repayment may be required under certain uncommon circumstances–for example, if a student withdraws from school mid-semester and owe a refund.)

**Interest:** A loan expense charged for the use of borrowed money and paid by a borrower to a lender. Interest for federal student loans is calculated as a percentage of the unpaid loan principal amount.

**Interest rate:** The percentage at which interest is calculated on a loan(s).

**Lender:** A financial institution that provides loan funds to parents or students. For federal Direct Loans (including parent PLUS Loans), the Department of Education is the lender.

**Loan origination fee:** An administrative fee assessed by the federal government and deducted from a loan before funds are made available. Fees are assigned each year and vary depending upon your origination date and year.

**Loan principal:** The amount originally borrowed. Simple daily interest is calculated based on the loan principal.

**Loan servicer:** An organization that manages loan payments and administrative functions on behalf of the lender. Students can look up the loan servicer by logging into the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS.ed.gov).

**Master Promissory Note:** A binding legal document setting out the contractual terms of a loan. A signed master promissory note must be on file before loan funds can be sent to the student account. Promissory notes for Direct and PLUS loans are signed online.

**Merit-based:** Funding distributed on the basis of academic or artistic accomplishments or individual leadership, rather than a family’s ability to pay for college.

**Need analysis:** The process by which financial aid officers assess each family’s ability to pay for the cost of a college education. The biggest factors in need analysis are income, assets, family size, and number of children in college; many other factors are incorporated to a lesser degree. The goal of need analysis is to provide an equitable and consistent assessment of each family’s unique financial situation.

**Need-based:** Funding distributed on the basis of each family’s financial strength and ability to pay for college, primarily considering income, assets, family size and number of children in college. Trinity provides exclusively need-based (as opposed to merit-based) financial aid.

**Net Price Calculator:** A tool to estimate financial aid eligibility at Trinity based on family finances. The Net Price Calculator is the best source of early financial aid information for college planning.

**Parent contribution:** Determination of parents’ ability to pay for college in the current academic year.

**Registrar:** The college administrator whose office manages enrollment, class registration, and academic standing.

**Repayment plan:** The amount of monthly payments and total repayment period for a loan. The Standard Repayment Plan consists of equal monthly payments over a period of ten years. Borrowers can switch to another repayment plan that better fits their monthly finances by contacting the loan servicer. There is never a financial penalty for making early loan payments or paying more than the minimum required amount.

**Room and board:** The expected cost of student housing (room) and food (board).

**Scholarship:** Money awarded to a student for educational expenses. Scholarships do not need to be repaid. At Trinity, outside scholarships replace other forms of financial aid, first replacing loans and need-based campus employment eligibility, then the Trinity Grant.

**Special circumstances:** Unusual situations affecting a family’s finances that were not reported or reflective on the family tax documents. The financial aid office can make a professional judgement based on your circumstance and documentation to increase your aid eligibility or override your dependent status.

**State grant:** Funds awarded by state governments based on residency and financial need.

**Student Aid Report (SAR):** A summary of the information reported on the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

**Tax return transcript:** An official IRS document confirming data from the federal tax return. A tax return transcript is one of two options to satisfy the federal verification requirement (the other option is using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool at www.irs.gov).

**Unsubsidized loan:** Loan for which interest begins to accrue after the loan funds are received; payments do not need to be made until the student leaves school.

**Verification:** A process, required of approximately 30% of students by Department of Education, through which financial aid officers check the information on a student’s financial aid application against the tax information received by the IRS. Verification can be completed either by using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or by requesting a tax return transcript from the IRS. Being selected for verification is essentially random and does not indicate a problem with your taxes or your financial aid application.

**Helpful Resources and Links**

[**FAFSA®: Apply for Aid**](https://fafsa.ed.gov/spa/fafsa/?locale=en_US&_ga=2.164246136.619763205.1550764026-795966392.1547233667)

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form to apply for financial aid for college or grad school.

[**Subsidized/Unsubsidized Master Promissory Note (MPN)**](https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/launchMpn.action?mpnType=subUnsubMpn)

 Is a legal document in which you promise to repay your loan(s) and any accrued interest and fees to the U.S. Department of Education. It also explains the terms and conditions of your loan(s). Unless your school does not allow more than one loan to be made under the same MPN, you can borrow additional Direct Loans on a single MPN for up to 10 years.

[**Entrance Counseling**](https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/counselingInstructions.action?counselingType=entrance)

If you have not previously received a Direct Loan or Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL), the Federal Government requires you to complete entrance counseling to ensure that you understand the responsibilities and obligations you are assuming. If you are completing entrance counseling to borrow a loan as a graduate or professional student, the entrance counseling will fulfill counseling requirements for Direct Unsubsidized Loans, and Direct PLUS Loans.

[**Exit Counseling**](https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/counselingInstructions.action?counselingType=exit)

Provides important information to prepare you to repay your federal student loan(s). If you have received a subsidized, unsubsidized or PLUS loan under the Direct Loan Program or the FFEL Program, you must complete exit counseling each time you drop below half-time enrollment, graduate or leave school.

[**Financial Awareness Counseling**](https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/counselingInstructions.action?counselingType=fa)

Provides tools and information to help you understand your financial aid and assist you in managing your finances.

[**National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS)**](https://nslds.ed.gov/nslds/nslds_SA/)

 Is the U.S. Department of Education’s (ED’s) central database for student aid. NSLDS receives data from schools, guaranty agencies, the Direct Loan program, and other Department of ED programs. NSLDS Student Access provides a centralized, integrated view of Title IV loans and grants so that recipients of Title IV Aid can access and inquire about their Title IV loans and/or grant data.

**How Do I apply for Aid?**

**Where Do I Start?**

* **Sign up for an FSA ID at**[**fsaid.ed.gov**](http://fsaid.ed.gov/) The FSA ID serves as your digital signature for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and login information for Federal Student Aid websites. Students can apply for an FSA ID anytime and it is recommended to have one before completing the FAFSA. If you are a dependent student, your parent will also need to create an FSA ID
* **Complete the**[**Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**](https://fafsa.ed.gov/)
* **Submit Required Documents**
* **Accept your Award**
* **Complete Master Promissory Notes (MPN), if necessary**.

The MPN is a legally binding agreement between you and us and contains the terms and conditions of your loans.

[Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loan eMPN](https://studentaid.gov/app/launchMpn.action?mpnType=subUnsubMpn)

[Grad PLUS Loan eMPN](https://studentaid.gov/app/launchMpn.action?mpnType=gradPlusMpn)

[Parent PLUS Loan eMPN](https://studentaid.gov/app/launchMpn.action?mpnType=parentPlusMpn)

* **Enroll for Classes**

