

STUDENT FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION



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The Office of Financial Aid is committed to assisting students in financing their educational expenses. Prospective students are encouraged to apply for financial aid concurrently with their application for admission to CBS. While the Office of Financial Aid cannot evaluate or determine eligibility for financial assistance until a student has applied for admission, applicants may complete required financial aid processes in advance.

Financial aid consists of funds provided to eligible students to assist with educational costs. Aid programs may include scholarships, grants, loans, and other forms of assistance, and may be awarded individually or in combination, in accordance with federal, state, and institutional regulations.

In compliance with federal regulations, a student's total financial aid package may not exceed the student's Cost of Attendance (COA). If the total amount of aid awarded exceeds the COA, adjustments will be made to ensure compliance with applicable requirements.

TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID

Federal Pell Grant (Title IV)

The Federal Pell Grant is provided to eligible undergraduate students who have not earned a bachelor's degree or equivalent. This program offers need-based financial assistance to students who are officially admitted and enrolled in eligible programs, including B.S., A.A., and A.B.S. degree programs.

Pell Grants are gift aid and do not require repayment. Eligibility and payment amounts are determined based on federal criteria established annually by the U.S. Department of Education, including the student's Student Aid Index (SAI) and enrollment status. Maximum amounts may change each award year. For current information, please visit www.studentaid.gov.

Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (Title IV)

The Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) is provided to eligible undergraduate students with exceptional financial need. Priority is given to Federal Pell Grant recipients with the lowest Student Aid Index (SAI). FSEOG funding is limited. Funds are provided to eligible students who have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and meet institutional selection criteria. As a result, not all eligible students will receive FSEOG funds.

Federal Direct Loans (Title IV)

The Federal Direct Loan Program allows eligible students who are enrolled at least half-time (a minimum of six credit hours) to borrow funds directly from the U.S. Department of Education to assist with educational expenses.

Direct Loans may be:

- **Subsidized Loans**, which are based on financial need. Interest does not accrue while the student is enrolled at least half-time and during authorized deferment periods;
- **Unsubsidized Loans**, which are not based on financial need and accrue interest from the date of disbursement; or
- A **combination** of both, depending on eligibility.

Origination fees are deducted from each loan disbursement in accordance with federal regulations. Interest rates and loan terms are established annually by federal law and may change each award year. For the most current information, please visit: <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans/subsidized-unsubsidized>

Enrollment Requirements and Loan Amounts (Effective for the 2026-2027 Award Year)

Loan eligibility and amounts are based on a student's enrollment status. Students must be enrolled at least half-time to receive Federal Direct Loan funds.

For students enrolled less than full-time, loan eligibility is limited based on enrollment level. Loan amounts may be reduced or prorated, if applicable, in accordance with federal requirements and institutional procedures. If a student’s enrollment level changes prior to or after disbursement, loan funds may be adjusted or returned as required by federal regulations.

Repayment and Interest

Repayment of Federal Direct Loans begins after a six-month grace period when a student graduates, withdraws, or drops below half-time enrollment. Interest on unsubsidized loans begins to accrue at the time of disbursement. If interest is not paid while the student is enrolled, it may be capitalized (added to the principal balance), resulting in interest accruing on the higher amount.

The maximum amounts allowed for each year are as follows:

Year	Dependent Students (except students whose parents cannot borrow PLUS)	Independent Students and Dependent Students (whose parents cannot borrow a PLUS loan)
1 st Year (Freshman)	\$5,500 - no more than \$3,500 may be in subsidized loans	\$9,500 – no more than \$3,500 may be in subsidized loans
2 nd Year (Sophomore)	\$6,500 – no more than \$4,500 may be in subsidized loans	\$10,500 – no more than \$4,500 may be in subsidized loans
3 rd and 4 th Year (Junior & Senior)	\$7,500 – no more than \$ 5,500 may be in subsidized loans	\$12,500 – no more than \$5,500 may be in subsidized loans
Aggregate Direct Loan Limits	\$31,000 – no more than \$23,000 may be in subsidized loans	\$57,500 – no more than \$23,000 may be in subsidized loans

Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan (Title IV)

A biological parent or legal guardian by court appointment of a dependent undergraduate student with a high school diploma or GED may borrow a Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan in addition to the student’s financial aid awards. Parent PLUS Loans may be used to help cover educational costs not already covered by the student’s financial aid, subject to federal loan limits.

Beginning with the 2026–27 award year, Parent PLUS Loans are subject to new federal borrowing limits. For loans with a first disbursement on or after July 1, 2026, parents may borrow up to the student's Cost of Attendance (COA), not to exceed \$20,000 per academic year, with a lifetime aggregate limit of \$65,000 per student, regardless of the number of parents borrowing. Some families may qualify for a limited legacy exception under federal regulations.

Eligibility for a Parent PLUS Loan is based on the borrower’s creditworthiness. To receive a Parent PLUS Loan, the student’s parent must complete and submit a PLUS Loan application through the U.S. Department of Education at www.studentaid.gov.

STATE FINANCIAL AID

Indiana

The Frank O’Bannon Grant, the Higher Education Award, the Freedom of Choice Award, Adult Student Grant and 21st Century Scholars Grant are Indiana’s primary need-based financial aid awards. These are designed to provide access to Hoosier students to attend eligible public, private and proprietary colleges and universities. Eligibility is based on a student’s FAFSA, and the grant may be used toward tuition and regular assessed fees.

Texas

The Texas Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG) is a state-funded grant program that may assist eligible Texas residents with tuition at private, nonprofit colleges and universities in Texas. To be considered, students must be enrolled in a minimum of 9 credit hours and complete the FAFSA or TASFA. Eligibility and award amounts are determined in accordance with

state law and regulations, institutional policies, and available appropriations. TEG funding is limited, and awards are not guaranteed, even for students who meet basic eligibility requirements. Continued eligibility is subject to annual review and compliance with state and institutional requirements.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Institutional scholarships are available to eligible students who qualify for the scholarship programs. To be considered for scholarships, students must apply to the Office of Financial Aid and meet the eligibility requirements outlined for each scholarship. Most of the scholarships are available and awarded based on merit, financial need, and/or other considerations.

Students interested in obtaining information on available scholarships should visit:

<https://cbshouston.academicworks.com/>.

COST OF ATTENDANCE (COA)

The total estimated cost of attending school for one academic year. It includes both direct costs (like tuition and fees) and indirect costs (such as books, housing, transportation, and personal expenses). Your COA is not necessarily what you pay out of pocket, but it is used to determine your financial aid eligibility.

2026–2027 Academic Year

Full-Time Student, Full Year (24 Credit Hours)

All Campuses

Tuition: \$9,490

General Service Fee: \$700

Loan Fees: \$118 for independent students; \$71 for dependent students

Personal Expenses: \$4,119

Food and Housing: \$13,121 for students not living with parents; \$6,573 for students living with parents

Transportation: \$3,000

Important Notes Regarding the Cost of Attendance (COA)

- Loan fees are estimated and apply only to students borrowing federal student loans.
- The Cost of Attendance may be adjusted for special circumstances in accordance with federal regulations. COA figures are reviewed annually and are subject to change.
- Students with questions about their Cost of Attendance should contact the Financial Aid Office.

HOW TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID

Students may apply for financial aid by submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at www.studentaid.gov. Students must also go to MyRecords/Populi, visit the Financial Tab followed by financial aid and make sure the year the student is applying for financial aid for is selected. In order to apply for financial aid, under each aid application component, click "View Instructions" to find out more. When an item is considered complete, financial aid staff will mark the item as complete and a green check mark will appear to the left of the item. If there is a question mark to the left of the item, the component is not yet complete, and the instructions listed will indicate what actions are needed by the student. Students must re-apply for financial aid each academic year. International students do not need to complete the FAFSA since they are not eligible for United States federal funding. A recipient's financial need is calculated based on the information provided on these forms. Financial aid awards may be subject to change if supplementary documentation (tax documents, bank statements, etc.) indicate significant variation from the information originally reported on the form(s). The Student Aid Index (SAI) derived from this calculation is then used to package and award aid for the student. This formula has been designed to provide an equitable system for the awarding of available institutional funds.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility for Federal Aid

To be eligible for federal financial aid (Title IV), a student must:

1. Have a United States high school diploma or equivalent or GED
2. Be admitted to the College in a Title IV eligible program
3. Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
4. Certify that funds will be used for educational purposes
5. Certify that he/she is not in default on any federal student loan and does not owe money on any federal student grant
6. Meet any other requirements established by the Title IV aid program

Eligibility for Institutional Aid

To qualify for many of the scholarships available at the College of Biblical Studies, the student must:

1. Be enrolled as a regular (matriculating) student in a degree or certificate program
2. Maintain financial aid satisfactory academic progress (SAP) based on scholarship requirement and the College's Financial Aid SAP policy. Note: Satisfactory academic progress standards for financial aid may differ from minimum College standards for continued enrollment or program requirements
3. Be meeting all other compliance requirements of the scholarship programs

Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress for Financial Aid

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) is used to define successful completion of coursework to maintain eligibility for student financial aid. Federal regulations require the College to establish, publish, and apply standards to monitor students' progress toward completion of a certificate or degree program. Students' academic performance must meet the SAP standards as described in the sections below.

Quantitative Academic Progress

1. Students must satisfactorily complete a minimum of 67% of the cumulative number of credit hours attempted each term.
2. Course and/or program withdrawals during the drop/add period will not be counted in the calculation of academic progress.
3. Grades of F, W, WA, and I are not considered as satisfactory completion.
4. Students must also complete their program measured in credit hours within a maximum time-frame no longer than 150% of the published length of the program.

Qualitative Academic Progress

Students must maintain a *cumulative grade point average (GPA)* of 2.00. For some institutional scholarships, students must maintain a higher semester GPA.

Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Appeal Process

Effective July 1, 2011, a student failing to maintain Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) will be notified in writing and placed on financial aid "warning" during the next term of enrollment. While in this "warning" status, the student is eligible to continue receiving private, institutional, and federal aid. If SAP is achieved at the end of the "warning" term, the student will be removed from "warning" status. If Financial Aid SAP is not achieved at the end of the "warning" term, the student will be notified in writing and placed on financial aid "suspension" during the next term of enrollment. While in a "suspension" status, the student is not eligible to receive private, institutional, and federal aid.

Students placed on "suspension" are eligible to submit a written appeal with supportive documentation for consideration of aid reinstatement.

Situations that may be considered for an appeal relate to the student or his/her immediate family members only. These situations must be extenuating emergency situations, such as the death of immediate family member or extreme medical emergencies. The written appeal must include the reason for lack of SAP and what steps the student has taken to satisfactorily correct the situation. Students will be required to submit supporting documentation with the appeal request.

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If the appeal is approved, the student will be placed on financial aid “probation” for one term of enrollment only. If the student cannot reasonably regain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) within one term, the student will be required to follow a Student Success Plan developed by the Office of Advising and Student Success. This plan is personalized to assist the student in achieving SAP and maintaining the appropriate pace and/or completion ratio. The pace policy specifies the rate at which a student must progress through a program to ensure completion within the maximum allowed timeframe. During any term in which the student is successfully following an approved Student Success Plan, the student will remain on financial aid “probation,” be eligible for aid, and may continue on probation without submitting an additional appeal. Upon meeting SAP standards, the student will be removed from probation and will continue to be aid eligible. If the student fails to meet the conditions of the Student Success Plan, the student will be placed on financial aid “suspension” and will be ineligible to receive aid until SAP is achieved in a subsequent term.

Students failing to maintain SAP should consult with their academic advisor who can assist with academic planning. They can meet with a financial aid advisor for assistance with financial aid advising.

Retaking Course Work

Federal regulations limit students’ eligibility for federal aid with regard to repeated courses. Students may not receive federal aid (i.e., Pell Grant, Stafford Loans) for courses that were previously taken and passed beyond the first retake. In addition, those courses will not count toward the student’s enrollment. Note: Repeat courses still count toward a student’s attempted hours for financial aid purposes.

Example: Student A takes a course and receives a ‘D’ grade. Student A needs a ‘C’ in this course to meet degree requirements. Student A retakes the course and receives aid and earns another ‘D’ grade. Student A needs to retake the course again but is no longer eligible for federal aid for that class. Additionally, Student A cannot use that course toward enrollment for financial aid purposes. If Student A is taking 12 credits, then the actual enrollment for financial aid purposes must be listed as 9 credits.

Return of Title IV Funds and Withdrawal Record

For any student who officially or unofficially withdraws from the College, federal regulations require a refund calculation for all students receiving Federal Title IV Funds. The calculation of the return of these funds may result in owing a balance to the College. If an unpaid balance exists on the student’s account, a hold will be placed on the student’s record. Withdrawing from classes will impact a student’s Satisfactory Academic Progress and may cause the student to be ineligible for future financial aid. All students should discuss the details of these policies with a Student Financial Service Advisor prior to withdrawing.

Refunds and repayments of Title IV funds are made in the following order:

1. Unsubsidized Stafford Loan
2. Subsidized Direct Loan
3. Direct Parent PLUS Loan
4. Pell Grant
5. FSEOG

The amount of federal aid that the student must repay is determined via the Federal Formula for Return of Title IV funds (Section 484B of the Higher Education Act). This law also specifies the order in which funds are to be returned to the financial aid programs from which they were awarded, starting with loan programs

Return of Institutional Aid and Scholarships

Institutional aid and scholarships are awarded based on enrollment hours. If any student withdraws from the College or reduces the number of hours during the academic term, his/her awards will be adjusted accordingly, and as a result, he/she may owe the institution. CBS does not refund institutional aid or scholarships to students.

Credit Balance Policy

The College has 14 days, as required by federal regulations, from the receipt of student funds to issue any refunds due to a Title IV funds credit balance on the student's account. All checks will be sent via mail for security purposes. The student is responsible for updating his/her current mailing address on [the student information system](#) or for notifying the Registrar's Office.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Reporting Student Financial Aid Changes

Student financial aid is based on the information submitted to the Office of Financial Aid for the current academic year in which the student applied for aid. To keep student files current and accurate, students are required to report any financial changes to the Office of Financial Aid. Students should expect a revision of their awards in most cases. Changes can include but are not limited to:

1. Additional financial assistance: scholarships, grants, loans, fee waivers, GI Bill[®], VA benefits, and/or VA Vocational Rehabilitation, or any other monetary award not reported previously.
2. Changes in enrollment hours and/or withdrawal from the College
3. Change in course load if below full time.

Entrance and Exit Interview

All Federal Direct loan recipients are required to complete entrance counseling prior to receiving the first disbursement of their loan proceeds. They are also required to complete exit counseling during their last term of attendance. (For further information, visit www.studentaid.gov.)

Revision and Cancellation

The College reserves the right to review, revise, or terminate all or a portion of financial aid at any time due to changes in students' financial and/or academic status or failure to comply with laws and regulations, including financial verification and institutional policies. In addition, all financial aid is subject to revision based on the funds received by the College from all financial aid resources and any changes to federal laws, regulations, or policies.

Financial Aid Frequently Asked Questions

How do I know if I have anything missing from my financial aid application?

You may view your Financial Aid Application by logging into your student portal (also called Populi). At www.cbshouston.edu, click on "MyCBS" on the top of the page. Click on "Populi Student System." Log in and then navigate through the "My Profile," "Financial," and then "Financial Aid" tabs. Under each aid application component, click "View Instructions" to find out more. If the component is complete, a green check mark will be visible on the left side. You may also view any Files that your financial aid counselor has placed on your profile for completion and/or upload documents yourself to the Files section. If your financial aid application has requested federal tax documents, please upload them to the Files section rather than sending them through email. The Files section is encrypted and secure. You may also use the "Ask a Question" feature which will send the question directly to your financial aid counselor and initiate a back-and-forth chat!

When will my financial aid be posted to my account?

The timing of financial aid posting depends on multiple factors. No financial aid is disbursed until after the Pell Census date, which is 24 days after the start date of the semester. The student must have a complete financial aid application and have accepted financial aid awards on the Populi Profile. If the student has accepted federal student loans, they must also have completed Entrance Counseling and MPN if they are a first-time borrower or the MPN is over 10 years old. For students who have completed financial aid applications and have accepted aid awards, the student's enrollment level is confirmed by financial aid staff. If the enrollment level differs from what was reported previously, some aid amounts may need adjustment. Financial aid staff also review the student's engagement/attendance records in the Populi student record system for each course. If the student is marked as having participated, the student's aid eligibility will include the credits for the course and their aid is scheduled for posting at the next available disbursement date. Students should review the Populi Financial Aid award page for estimated dates for the aid to post to their student accounts.

Will I get a financial aid credit balance check [sometimes also called a financial aid refund check]?

When financial aid is posted to a student's account, allowable charges are paid first. Allowable charges include tuition and the general service fee. If there are any remaining funds left after the charges are paid, the funds are sent in a check to the address on the student's Populi profile within **14 days**. **It is important for students to keep the address correct and up to date!**

If I am getting a financial aid credit balance check, when will I get it? Can I pick it up at the college?

The CBS **Business Office** will process and mail the check within 14 days of the credit balance occurring on the student's account. The check cannot be picked up at the college. It must be mailed to the address on the student's account. Direct deposit is NOT currently available.

I'm getting Financial Aid. Why do I have a balance due on my account?

Financial aid is awarded on an individual basis and will vary year-by-year based on results of your FAFSA, lifetime aid limits, and eligibility for scholarships. If each of your financial aid awards have already been posted for the semester, your financial aid was not enough to pay all your school invoices for the semester. If a student receives only federal grants and has declined federal loans, federal grants are typically not sufficient to pay the entire cost of tuition and the general service fee each semester. Please check your individual financial aid award and contact the Financial Aid office if you have questions.

How do I order my books and use financial aid to pay for them?

CBS participates in the First Day Complete Textbook program. This program gives students [electronic access to textbooks in Blackboard](#) starting the first day of a class. Books are included in the cost of tuition and fees. If students want to opt out of the program, they will be provided with a weblink to complete. If they opt out, a credit of \$50 will be applied to their financial account. The financial aid that a student accepts will post toward their tuition and fee invoices for the semester

How do I apply for a scholarship?

If you are a young man, please review information about the Emerging Leaders program at [Emerging Leaders – College of Biblical Studies \(cbshouston.edu\)](#). If you qualify to apply based on the initial screening, you will be referred to the application as a part of the Admissions process.

Other students may submit applications for CBS Institutional Scholarships. More information about the scholarship application process can be found at [Financial Aid – College of Biblical Studies \(cbshouston.edu\)](#). The scholarship applications are open as budgets allow.

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