

Financial Aid

FAQ's, Terms to Know, and Resources for Families

Cost of Attendance (COA): estimation of total costs for a student to attend college/university for one year. This number is different from Tuition and Fees – as this number takes into account costs such as: housing, food and other expenses for living. COA is utilized on the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) when estimating eligibility for financial assistance to attend college. Often times the COA can be controlled and lowered based on choices by the family and the student – cutting coupons, buying textbooks from different sources at a lower cost, taking advantage of student discounts, and so on. [Click here for COA information specifically for University of Wyoming students.](#)

Financial Aid: funding provided to your student, that is not expected to be paid back, to attend college/university. This includes the Federal Pell Grant, Hathaway Scholarship and Scholarships (institutional, state and national). There may be expectations for GPA and completion based on the financial aid accepted – be sure to encourage your student to check these expectations during the application process and encourage them to meet and exceed these expectations each semester. [Keeping the financial aid is important – click here to navigate to University of Wyoming information on maintaining funding each year your student is enrolled.](#)

Free Application for Federal Student Aid - FAFSA: a free application you will complete with your student on a yearly basis to apply for Pell Grant and Student Loans. In most cases the application will require your information as a parent and the information for your student – tax information will be utilized to determine assistance available. It is important to complete this on a yearly basis – and if there is a change to your income after you have submitted the FAFSA, please contact the University of Wyoming Financial Aid Office to update information (this can be loss of income, decrease of income, decrease of work hours that results in a loss of salary expected, or change in household size). Here are some important links to utilize to assist you in this process – again, this application is always free, please do not pay a service to assist you in this process (there are programs and support services to help you and your family complete this application – just inquire with the financial aid office for more information): [University of Wyoming, Financial Aid Office](#) (a great place to start), [FAFSA](#) (application site with additional information), and [FAFSA Deadlines by State](#).

FSA ID: consider this a secure electronic signature for your FAFSA processes. Students and parents will need a FSA ID. It is encouraged that you complete this first – and then begin your FAFSA application. You can access the site here: [FSA ID](#).

Hathaway Scholarship: a scholarship program from Wyoming students to utilize at Wyoming Community Colleges and the University of Wyoming. [Navigate here to calculate the amount of Hathaway Scholarship your student may be eligible for.](#) Be sure to complete the application process for the Hathaway and accept/initiate the award! [Go here for more information regarding the Hathaway Scholarship at the University of Wyoming.](#)

Net Price Calculator: navigate here to use an online tool to help you estimate education costs: [University of Wyoming, Net Price Calculator](#).

Payment Deadlines: check on the [Registrar webpage for Payment Deadlines](#) throughout the semester – you will also want to utilize the [Accounts Receivable](#) page for additional payment option information. If you student has accepted a Pell Grant, Scholarship or Student/Parent Loans these are automatically applied to the balance due – the most important thing to remember is to remind your student to accept the funds so they can be applied. If you are unsure if you student has accepted any form of financial aid, please contact the Financial Aid Office at 307 766 2116 or finaid@uwyo.edu.

Pell Grant: funding awarded to a student through their FAFSA application process. They must accept this award each semester they are eligible to receive funding – this is a grant and is not expected to be paid back (there are completion requirements and grade expectations with this funding – students are encouraged to connect with advising and financial aid offices to ensure they are meeting the expectations for funding each semester/year). The University of Wyoming provides details on the [Pell Grant](#) as well as other grant funding on their page.

Scholarships: scholarships are assistance to support your student in their academic career, they do not have to be paid back (unless a student fails to complete a course or a semester – if this is the case based on a specific scholarship this information is outlined in the application process). Check out the [University of Wyoming Scholarships](#) page to access the many scholarship options available to your student. Applying early and often is key – be sure to have your students FAFSA submitted early to open them up to more funding opportunities. There are also many other sources for scholarship funding on a state and national level – connecting with the scholarships office will help you to narrow your students search for external scholarship funds.

Student Employment: one option for student employment is the Federal Work-Study program, eligibility for this funding is also determined by the FAFSA. Students can also seek employment on and off campus – but are strongly encouraged to consider the academic obligations and time commitments when considering all options for employment. We appreciate the opportunity to work with your students in their academic journey and want to make sure they are supported and are able to balance their many obligations as best they can while they are here. [Check out the University of Wyoming, Federal Work-Study, page here.](#)

Parent & Student Loans (Subsidized & Unsubsidized): parent and student loans are also considered in the FAFSA application. It is your choice and the choice of your student whether or not to accept loans, and for what amount. It is very important to understand the difference between *Subsidized* and *Unsubsidized* loans – with a subsidized loan you are not charged interest while you are enrolled at least half-time, with the unsubsidized loan interest begins accruing immediately. Again, you have a choice to accept or decline loans and how much to accept. [Click here to access additional information provided by the University.](#)

Tuition and Fees: this is a set amount your student will be charged per semester or year for their courses. [Navigate here](#) and scroll to this middle of the page – click on the group that identifies your student best, for example: “In State Residents,” to see a drop down with information per semester and academic year for Tuition and Fees.