Carleton

Understanding Your Financial Aid Award

RETURNING STUDENTS 2019–2020

CARLETON'S FINANCIAL AID POLICY

Carleton assumes that parents have the primary responsibility for financing their student's education. Implied in that philosophy is an expectation that students will participate in financing their Carleton education. Student Financial Services will do what it can to enable a student to matriculate. Financial aid eligibility is for a maximum of 12 terms or until graduation requirements are met, whichever occurs first.

YOUR AID AWARD

Please review your aid award carefully to make sure you understand what you're being offered. You can watch a video with detailed information about how to navigate your aid award at **go.carleton.edu/navigate**.

This award is based on our analysis of the information you submitted during this year's aid application process. It includes a combination of grants/scholarships (which do not need to be repaid), loans, and student employment. (Learn more about the need analysis we use to calculate our need-based financial aid awards on page 3.)

CARLETON GRANTS/SCHOLARSHIPS

These funds are provided by the college to support your Carleton education and do not need to be repaid. The only requirement for retaining this aid is that you maintain satisfactory academic progress (in other words, remain off academic suspension). We may notify you later about whether a specific endowment or gift funded your grant/scholarship, and we may ask you to write a thank you note to the donor(s).

MINNESOTA STATE GRANT

All Minnesota residents who complete the FAFSA are considered for the Minnesota State Grant. You may be prompted to complete an online questionnaire to confirm your residency and eligibility. For the purposes of this grant, a full-time student is defined as a person carrying at least 15 credits per term. (Carleton students typically carry 18 credits per term.) If you take fewer than 15 credits in a term, your Minnesota State Grant will be reduced accordingly.

PELL GRANT

Your Student Aid Report (SAR), which you received after completing the FAFSA, confirms whether you are eligible for the federal Pell Grant.

SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY GRANTS (SEOG)

Everyone who completes the FAFSA automatically applies for these limited federal grants, which are awarded to students with the greatest demonstrated need.

STUDENT LOANS

If your aid award includes student loans, please refer to the online loan chart at **go.carleton.edu/loans** to read about loan terms and other details. We do not automatically assume you will be accepting the loan(s) in your aid award; if you want the offered loan(s), you will need to accept them on The Hub.

First-time federal Direct Stafford Loan borrowers are required by federal law to complete the applicable entrance counseling requirement(s) and promissory note(s) before funds are disbursed. You do not need a cosigner to secure a federal Direct Stafford Loan, and you may apply for this loan anytime during the academic year.

If you're interested in learning about alternative loans or Direct PLUS loans for parents, visit **go.carleton.edu/altloans**.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Upper-class students work an average of ten hours per week. Your aid award will list the maximum amount of your work award, and you will not be allowed to work beyond that amount. If student employment is part of your award, you will receive your job assignment for the 2019–20 academic year via email in mid-August.

If you have been awarded Minnesota or Federal Student Employment, you may consider working either on campus or at a non-profit off-campus position.

If you have not already completed an Employment Eligibility Verification (I-9) and a W-4 Withholding Allowance Certificate, you must visit our Human Resources office to do so before you begin work, in accordance with federal law. We will issue you a W-2 in January.

Next Steps

1. **Sign and submit your initial award**
   Access and accept your award through The Hub.

2. **Report outside scholarships**
   We encourage you to apply for outside scholarships. You must submit a list of any outside awards you expect to receive to Student Financial Services. When you receive the funds (usually by check), please forward them to Student Financial Services, along with a copy of your notification from the scholarship provider.

   Our policy is to keep every aid award within the student's calculated need. That means we will adjust your award to reflect your outside scholarships by reducing your self-help awards (loan and/or student employment) by the same amount. For example, if you receive a $1,000 outside scholarship, we will reduce your loan by $1,000; you will end up with the same amount of financial aid but lower debt. If your outside funding completely eliminates your loan(s), we will use any remaining amount to decrease your student employment award. You may request in writing that we use your outside scholarships to reduce your student employment first to keep your loan at the maximum legal limit.

   After you report outside scholarships, we will notify you of your award revision reflecting those changes.

3. **Complete any loan requirements (if applicable)**
   You will receive instructions completing any applicable counseling and promissory note requirements for your student loan(s).

4. **We will credit your aid to your account**
   After you have accepted your aid award and submitted all applicable loan application materials, we will credit your fall term aid to your account. Your scholarship/grant aid and loans will be split among the three terms with 33 percent going to fall term, 33 percent to winter, and 34 percent to spring. You may elect to credit your student employment portion to your student account as you earn it, or you may choose to have your earnings deposited into your bank account. If at any point you have a credit on your account, you may request a refund from the Business Office.

CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES

We understand that your family's finances might change unexpectedly during the year. If this causes a problem in paying for college, you may submit a written request to Student Financial Services to review your aid award. You'll need to explain as specifically as possible the changes or unusual circumstances taking place. Visit **go.carleton.edu/fareview** to learn more. You have the right to speak with a financial aid officer at any time throughout the year. Contact Student Financial Services to make an appointment.

You must report any significant changes in your family's financial situation as soon as they occur. This includes increases of $1,000 or more in assets or annual income.

OFF-CAMPUS STUDY PROGRAMS

You may apply your financial aid toward most Carleton-approved off-campus study programs. If you plan to study off campus, please review the detailed policies at **go.carleton.edu/ocsaid**.

FINANCIAL AID IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS

As long as you continue to make satisfactory progress toward your degree and still demonstrate financial need, you can expect to receive aid throughout your four years at Carleton. However, your aid will not renew automatically. You must re-apply each year and submit any materials Student Financial Services requests to verify your application materials. You are eligible for aid for a maximum of 12 terms (or until you complete your graduation requirements, whichever comes first).

If you marry while attending Carleton, your financial aid will continue to be based on your parents' resources.

Understanding Need Analysis

We use a standard formula that factors in as much information as possible to determine the expected family contribution toward college costs (including contributions from both parents and the student). Although the expected family contribution is intended to be reasonable, it is not something most families can realistically take out of a single year's income. Most families use a combination of current income, savings, and borrowing to cover their share of college costs.

YOUR PARENTS' CONTRIBUTION

Our formula factors in your parents' income from all sources and makes allowances for essential expenses such as reasonable living costs, taxes, any unusually high medical costs, and educational expenses for other children. We base your parents' contribution on a graduated rate similar to the federal income tax structure. That means we apply a lower rate (23 percent) to the first portion of available income and progressively higher rates to additional discretionary income.

We also take your parents' assets into account, because a family with assets is in a stronger financial situation than a family with similar income but fewer or no assets. We consider savings, investments, home equity, real estate, and business or farm assets. We subtract allowances for emergency expenses and anticipated education costs for other members of your family. We don't intend to totally deplete your parents' assets; we expect them to contribute between three and five percent of their assets to your education, based on a graduated scale like the one we use for income.

If you have two living biological or adoptive parents, we expect both of them to help support you through college, even if they are no longer married or together. If your parents live separately, we collected information from both of them to calculate an expected family contribution that takes both households into account. We keep financial information from each household confidential and do not share it with anyone—including the other parent—without permission.

YOUR CONTRIBUTION

We believe education should be your top priority, so we expect you to contribute a greater percentage of your income and assets than your parents do. We assume that you will work during breaks and save the majority of your earnings for college expenses. We expect you to apply 25 percent of the value of your assets toward your education and to contribute a minimum of $2,100 per year.

QUESTIONS?

Feel free to contact us or visit our office at any time. You also can find more detailed information about how we determine your financial need at **go.carleton.edu/needanalysis**.

Office of Student Financial Services

Scoville Hall, Suite 102
One North College Street
Northfield, MN 55057

phone: 507-222-4138
fax: 507-222-4269
e-mail: financialaid@carleton.edu

Financial Aid Terms

comprehensive fee
what it costs to attend Carleton (tuition, room and board/meals, activity fee), not including personal costs like transportation, clothing, and books

cost of attendance
total cost to attend Carleton, including the comprehensive fee plus estimates of variable personal costs

CSS Profile
a financial aid application for all students regardless of citizenship

demonstrated financial need
the difference between the cost of attendance and your family contribution

expected family contribution (EFC)
what your family should expect to pay for college

FAFSA
the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (for U.S. citizens and Permanent Residents)

grant
a scholarship based on financial need

need-based aid
based on financial need, rather than on merit or skills

net cost or net price
the amount of money your family can expect to pay after all financial aid has been applied

student employment
a paid position of up to 10 hours per week during the academic terms

Carleton