

Student Financial Aid



Bronco Express and Student Financial Aid

What do we help with?

- Student Financial Aid.
- Accounts Receivable and Billing questions.
- General registration questions.

Students can:

- Obtain general financial aid forms.
- Receive explanation of financial aid and billing inquiries.
- Make check or money order payments and deliver scholarship checks to the SFA office via the drop box.
- Make an appointment with a Financial Services Specialist.



We didn't apply for financial aid, now what?

Financial Aid First!

- If you haven't already done so, make sure that you file your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by going to studentaid.gov.

Complete your File!

- Check [goWMU](https://go.wmich.edu) and your WMU email to make sure you do not have any outstanding financial aid requirements that need to be completed.

Review your Offer Letter!

- A Financial Aid Offer Letter will be sent both print and digitally from the WMU Student Financial Aid Office indicating what types of aid that you are eligible for.



Financial aid eligibility and Self Service

In order to receive financial aid, you must:

- ✓ Complete the 2024-25 FAFSA for summer II 2024, fall 2024, spring 2025 and summer I 2025 enrollment.
- ✓ Meet specific enrollment requirements dependent upon type of aid.
- ✓ Complete all financial aid requirements that are listed in Self Service.
- ✓ If you received aid at another institution during fall, contact their offices to cancel any pending funds.

Regularly check Self Service and WMU email!

- ✓ Notification of outstanding student requirements.
- ✓ Offer overview.
- ✓ Offer status.
- ✓ Accept, deny or reduce federal loans that were offered.
- ✓ Student Adjustment Form.



Estimated Cost of Attendance

The cost of attendance is calculated using an estimated cost of tuition, fees, housing, food, books, supplies, personal, travel and loan fees. It is based on your:

- Residency status for tuition purposes (in-state or out-of-state)
- Class level (undergraduate or graduate)
- Housing preference (on-campus, off-campus, or living-at-home)
- Enrollment status (semesters/sessions and number of credit hours per semester/session)

Your estimated cost of attendance will be based on information we have at that time we prepare our offer letter. In most cases, we will assume you will be enrolled at least full-time for fall and spring semesters.

If any of the above factors change, then your estimated cost of attendance and your offer package may change.



On the offer letter next to the student's name and WIN will be the criteria that the student's estimated cost of attendance is based on:

- Residency (In-state or Out of State)
- College of choice (used for differential tuition)

The screenshot shows a financial aid offer letter with a yellow header that reads "2024-2025 Financial Aid Offer". Below the header is a photograph of a modern university building with a large "W" logo and the text "WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY". Below the photo, there is a navigation bar with several options: "Email R/UG", "WIN: 500003", "03/13/2024", "In-State Resident", and "College: Education & Human Development". The "In-State Resident" and "College: Education & Human Development" options are highlighted with a red box. Below the navigation bar, there is a paragraph of text: "Welcome back Bronco! We are pleased to offer you the following financial assistance for the 2024-25 academic year. Your financial aid offer is ESTIMATED and based on the information supplied on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), as well as scholarships and resources that have already been reported to the Student Financial Aid office. This estimated offer is based on full-time enrollment and is subject to change as variables and eligibility may change. Please check goWVU often to view your most up-to-date financial aid offer." Below this text are two tables. The first table is titled "COST OF ATTENDANCE" and has two columns: "Direct Costs" and "Total". The rows are "Tuition & Fees" (\$81,000), "Housing & Food" (\$7,736), and "Total Direct Costs" (\$88,736). The second table is titled "INDIRECT COSTS" and has two columns: "Total" and "Total Indirect Costs". The rows are "Books/Supplies/Materials/Equip" (\$3,766), "Transportation" (\$4,617), and "Total Indirect Costs" (\$8,383). To the right of the tables are two grey boxes with play buttons and text: "How much can I borrow each year in federal student loans?" and "How often do I complete the FAFSA?"

COST OF ATTENDANCE ¹	
Direct Costs ¹	Total
Tuition & Fees	\$81,000
Housing & Food	\$7,736
Total Direct Costs	\$88,736

INDIRECT COSTS ¹	
	Total
Books/Supplies/Materials/Equip	\$3,766
Transportation	\$4,617
Total Indirect Costs	\$8,383

Estimated Cost of Attendance

Below are the general estimated cost of attendance for a resident and non-resident:

	Resident - On/Off Campus	Non-Resident - On Campus
Direct WMU Costs		
Tuition & Fees	\$15,174	\$18,942
Housing & Food	\$12,482	\$12,482
Total WMU Direct Costs	\$27,656	\$31,424
Indirect Costs		
Books & Supplies	\$1,128	\$1,128
Transportation	\$1,050	\$1,186
Other/Personal	\$1,610	\$1,990
Loan Fees	\$37	\$37
Total Indirect Costs	\$3,825	\$4,341
Total Estimated Costs:	\$31,481	\$35,765



Direct vs. Indirect Costs

The Estimated Cost of Attendance is based on Direct and Indirect Costs.

Direct costs are anything that will be billed directly to your WMU Student Account. The following charges are considered direct costs at WMU:

- Tuition & Fees
- Housing & Food (if living in WMU housing and have a meal plan)

Indirect costs are items that we build into our cost of attendance to assist with additional expenses. Indirect costs consist of:

- Books, supplies, materials and equipment
- Transportation (including parking sticker)
- Other educational expenses
- Federal Direct Loan fees (if accepting loans)



COST OF ATTENDANCE ^⓪

Direct Costs ^⓪	Total
Tuition & Fees	\$17,848
Housing & Food	\$11,490
Total Direct Costs	\$29,338

INDIRECT COSTS ^⓪

	Total
Books/Supplies/Materials/Equip	\$1,128
Transportation	\$1,030
Avg Fed Direct Student Ln Fees	\$37
Other Educational Expenses	\$1,564
Total Indirect Costs	\$3,759

Indirect costs are not billed to your WMU Student Account.

Scholarships and Grants

Scholarships and grants are types of financial aid that do not need to be repaid. They are a great way to pay for your education and may reduce the need for student loans.

All new students were considered for certain WMU scholarships at the time of admission. Students can login to view 2024-25 external and endowed scholarships at <https://wmich.scholarshipuniverse.com>.

To maximize your eligibility for both scholarships and grants, students need to complete the FAFSA.



SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS ^①

	Fall 2023	Spring 2024	Total
Michigan Competitive	\$750	\$750	\$1,500
Bronco Merit Scholarship	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$2,500
WMU Achievement Award	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$2,400
Total Gift Aid Offered	\$3,200	\$3,200	\$6,400

Estimated Balance **Before** Loans: \$22,938

Work-study student employment

Federal Work-study is a need-based financial aid program funded by the federal government and Western Michigan University. It is offered to students based on need. Unlike grants and scholarships, Federal Work-study is earned and paid through the payroll process in the form of a bi-weekly paycheck. Federal Work-study offers and amounts are subject to eligibility requirements and fund availability.

Please note: Work-study and non work-study students jobs are promoted via Handshake. Visit <https://wmich.joinhandshake.com/login> to login and view.

For FAQ's, please visit <https://wmich.edu/finaid/workstudy> for further work-study information.



Federal student loans

Federal Direct Subsidized Loan

The U.S. Department of Education pays the interest on a Federal Direct Subsidized Loan:

- While you're in school at least half-time.
- During *deferment* (a postponement of loan payments).

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan

You are responsible for paying the interest on a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan during all periods. You may choose not to pay interest:

- During school.
- During deferment.
- During forbearance.

Interest will accrue (accumulate)

Interest will capitalize (be added to the principal)



LOANS ⁰			
	Fall 2023	Spring 2024	Total
Federal Subsidized Loan	\$2,750	\$2,750	\$5,500
Federal Unsubsidized Loan	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000
Total Loans	\$3,750	\$3,750	\$7,500

Estimated Balance After Loans: \$15,438

Accept, Deny, or Adjust Offered Federal Loans

Accept, Deny, or Adjust Offered STUDENT Loans

- Students will need to sign into Self Service to accept, deny or adjust the amount of the federal student loans that they were offered.
- This can only be done once. Any other changes that need to be made will require the student to submit a Student Financial Aid Adjustment Form.

After Loan Disbursement

Within the first 30 days, to cancel once loan(s) have disbursed:

- Complete the “Student Financial Aid Adjustment Form” or “Parent Financial Aid Adjustment Form” to request loan adjustments.

After 30 days of the date of disbursement, you will need to send payments directly to the Loan Servicer.

- Please note: There are never any penalties for early payment.



Student Financial Aid Adjustment Form

Located in Self Service.
Submitted securely online.

- Login and go to the “Students” app.
- Click on “Financial Aid”.
- Click “General Financial Aid”.
- Click “Online Financial Aid Forms”.
- Click “Student Financial Aid Adjustment Form”
- Select the aid year and click Next.

Estimated Remaining Balance

The Estimated Remaining Balance is provided in your Offer Letter and is calculated by subtracting any aid that was offered to the student from their Estimated Direct Costs.

Both the Scholarships & Grant and Loan sections of the Financial Aid Offer Letter provide you with what your estimated balance would be if you accepted the aid presented in either of those sections.



COST OF ATTENDANCE [Ⓞ]

Direct Costs [Ⓞ]	Total
Tuition & Fees	\$17,848
Housing & Food	\$11,490
Total Direct Costs	\$29,338

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS [Ⓞ]

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WMU Achievement Award	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$2,400
Total Gift Aid Offered	\$3,200	\$3,200	\$6,400

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LOANS [Ⓞ]

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Total Loans	\$3,750	\$3,750	\$7,500

Estimated Balance After Loans: \$15,438

Options to Pay Estimated Balance

OPTIONS TO PAY ESTIMATED REMAINING BALANCE

Option 1: University Payment Plan

Western Michigan University has a semester payment plan which features installment payments. The University payment plan allows you to spread the balance due over a certain number of installments.

wmich.edu/accounts-receivable/payments/university-payment-plan

Option 2: Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan

The Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan allows a parent to borrow money for the educational expenses of a child who is a dependent undergraduate student enrolled at least half-time.

wmich.edu/finaid/aid-types/loans

Option 3: Private Alternative Loans

Private alternative loans are loans that are available through banks to help cover educational expenses. WMU has identified private lenders to appear on our Preferred Lender List through ELMSelect. WMU will work with any lender of your choosing.

wmich.edu/finaid/aid-types/loans

To assist in making a financial plan to pay the estimated remaining balance, the Financial Aid Offer Letter provides you with the three main options that most families use to pay out of pocket costs. Each option presented on the offer letter also includes links for more information on our website.



Special circumstances and SAP

Special circumstances require contacting our Bronco Express Service Team for assistance.

Common special circumstances include:

- Loss of income through layoff, retirement or disability.
- Death or divorce of a parent after filing FAFSA.

If financial circumstances have changed since filing your 2024-25 FAFSA, please contact Bronco Express to inquire about financial aid re-evaluation.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) monitoring is done at the end of each semester for all students.

Students must:

1. Pass a minimum of 67% of all attempted hours at WMU.
2. Maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average as stated in the University's Catalog.
3. Complete all degree requirements (this includes transfer hours to WMU) within 150% of the minimum numbers of credits to graduate; not to exceed a total of 183 undergraduate credit hours, including transfer hours.



Bronco Express FAQ's wmich.edu/finaid/broncoexpress/faq

You will find answers to general questions like:

- How can I apply for more financial aid to cover my balance and books?
- Why hasn't my financial aid paid to my account?
- What's the status of my paperwork?
- I received an email that says I have pending financial aid, but everything is accepted. What do I have to do?



FERPA and Requesting Proxy Access

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 is a federal law designed to help protect the privacy of student education records.

When a student turns 18 years old, or enters a postsecondary institution at any age, the rights under FERPA transfer from the parents to the student ("eligible student"). The FERPA statute is found at 20 U.S.C. § 1232g and the FERPA regulations are found at 34 CFR Part 99.



- Degree Works.
- Enrollment Verification.
- Midterm & Final Grades.
- Student Class Schedule.
- Unofficial Transcript.
- Financial Aid Requirements.
- Financial Aid Offer for Aid Year.
- Financial Aid Payment Schedule.

Visit <https://wmich.edu/finaid/resources> for more information on how to add Authorized and/or Proxy Users.

Questions?

Financial Aid – Accounts Receivable Billing
Call, email or drop-in to Bronco Express

Phone: (269) 387-6000

Email: finaid-info@wmich.edu

Bronco Express Drop-in Hours: located in Student Financial Aid in
the Faunce Student Services Building

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Friday: 8 a.m. to noon. Saturday and Sunday: Closed

Bronco Express Phone Hours:

Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday:
Closed

