



Benedictine University

Financial Aid

Financial Aid ESTIMATED Offer

This document highlights an **estimate** of the financial aid offered to you for the 2022-23 Academic Year. This offer includes any Benedictine scholarships and awards; offered federal loans; state or federal grants; or work-study opportunity you may be eligible for. Please note that this is only an ESTIMATE of your financial aid. In order to provide an official financial aid offer, you are required to submit additional documentation to the Office of Financial Aid. You will receive more information via email about this required documentation.

Estimated Direct Costs – Estimated direct costs are those charges that are directly billed to the student by Benedictine University.

- ◆ **Tuition** – A student's tuition rate is based off their program, delivery model, and enrollment. The tuition rate is locked in throughout your time at Benedictine upon enrolling for the fall 2022 semester and making satisfactory academic progress while continuously enrolling each semester.
- ◆ **Student Fees** – Standard Student Fees are direct costs billed to all undergraduate students upon enrollment. Please note that additional fees may be applied based off specific course enrollment. Student Service fees are reviewed annually and are subject to change.
- ◆ **Housing and Meal Plan** – This direct cost has been determined based off a student's interest of living on campus as a residential student as identified by the student's living arrangement preference entered on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Please note this cost is subject to change based off a student's choice of housing location, room type, and meal plan selection. Housing and Meal Plan fees are reviewed annually and are subject to change.

Benedictine Scholarship and Award Guidelines - Institutional scholarships and awards are available to eligible students enrolled in a traditional undergraduate program for the fall and spring semesters only. Awards renew as long as a student remains continuously enrolled and maintains satisfactory academic progress (SAP). Failure to do so can result in a loss of the scholarship. All Benedictine scholarships and awards are designated for tuition only. The total amount of institutional assistance awarded will not exceed the standard full-time tuition rate, which is based on enrollment of 12-18 credit hours. A student who chooses to not enroll in a traditional undergraduate program as a full-time student will receive a pro-rated amount of their Benedictine scholarships and awards.

Benedictine University Institutional Scholarships/Awards and the Tuition Exchange/Remission programs are mutually exclusive and may not be combined.

Federal Work Study – Federal Work Study is not included in the remaining balance calculation as the Federal Work Study program pays students directly for the hours worked in a Federal Work Study position. The Federal Work Study award provided is the amount the student is eligible to earn under the Federal Work Study program. It is the student's responsibility to obtain a work study position and work the hours required to earn the maximum award provided.

Federal Direct Loans – Federal Direct Loans are low-interest loans offered by the Department of Education for students and parents to utilize in effort to help finance the cost of education at a post-secondary institution. A loan is money that is borrowed and must be paid back with interest.

Federal Direct Subsidized Loans are based on financial need. The federal government subsidizes the loan by paying any accrued interest while the student is enrolled at least half-time.

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans are low interest loans that are not based on financial need. The student is responsible for paying the interest from the date the loan is disbursed; however, a borrower may choose to defer these payments while they are in school and enrolled at least half-time.

The maximum combined amount a student can borrow each year in Direct Subsidized Loans and Direct Unsubsidized Loans ranges from \$5,500 to \$12,500 per year, depending on what year in school a student is in and their dependency status. The maximum annual **combined** Direct Loan award for a dependent student is \$5,500 for a Freshman, \$6,500 for a Sophomore, and \$7,500 for a Junior/Senior. The maximum annual combined Direct Loan award for an independent student is \$9,500 for a Freshman, \$10,500 for a Sophomore, and \$12,500 for a Junior/Senior. Within the combined annual Direct Loan limit, the Department of Education caps a student's Subsidized Loan eligibility at \$3,500 for Freshman, \$4,500 for Sophomores, and \$5,500 for Juniors/Seniors.

A student's dependency status is determined by their FAFSA results while Benedictine University determines a student's grade level by credits earned/applied in a student's program of study (0-29 Freshman, 30-59 Sophomore, 60+ Junior/Senior). Transfer credits applied towards a degree are factored in when determining a student's grade level so it is important to complete all necessary steps i.e. submit official transcripts for an academic evaluation so that an accurate grade level designation can be determined.

****Please note that federal loans are placed in an “offered” status and require a student to take additional steps for those loan amounts to disburse. Students offered federal loans will receive appropriate information regarding those steps.**

Disbursement

Financial aid offered to a student is posted and disbursed to a student’s account following the add/drop period for each semester. You may review your account activity by accessing the MyBenU system.

Award Revisions

The Office of Financial Aid reserves the right to modify financial aid awards at any time based on the availability of federal, state, and institutional funds; outside scholarships; or if changes occur in your financial need, course enrollment, or academic status.

Appeal Process for Special Circumstances

A family that has experienced a major change in their financial status since filing their FAFSA may submit a formal letter of appeal. Consideration will be given in any of the following circumstances: Loss of income, Loss of untaxed benefits or unemployment, Death of a parent or spouse, or Unusually high medical or dental expenses. For more information and required documentation, visit our website at www.ben.edu/financial-aid/forms.cfm.

Illinois MAP Grant

By applying for financial aid and agreeing to share that information with the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) you have been considered for the State of Illinois (IL) Monetary Award Program (MAP) Grant. All MAP-approved institutions are required by the State of Illinois to announce MAP Grant awards to students who are enrolled or intending to enroll at their institution. An award amount is included in your financial aid package if you have met the eligibility criteria. The MAP Grant award amount is an estimate made by the financial aid office and is identified as a "State of IL MAP Grant (Est)". Please be aware that the number of available MAP Grants is limited by funding levels approved by the Illinois General Assembly and the Governor, and reductions to estimated or actual MAP Grants are possible.

There are also limitations to how long you can continue to receive a MAP Grant. Usage is tracked by the number of credit hours for which you’ve received MAP benefits and is referred to as MAP Paid Credit Hours (MPCHs). The maximum number of MPCHs that can be received is 135, which is equivalent to approximately four and a half years of fulltime enrollment. For your reference, and to learn more about MPCH limitations, you may access a record of your MPCHs, as well as other student resources, through the ISAC Student Portal at studentportal.isac.org.

Eligibility for the need-based MAP Grant award may be an indicator that you are eligible for state or federal benefits to assist you with cost of living expenses such as food or housing. For information about programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), contact the Illinois Department of Human Services at 1-800-843-6154 or visit www.dhs.state.il.us for eligibility and application information, or contact the Illinois Hunger Coalition Hunger Hotline at 1-800-359-2163 or visit www.ilhunger.org

Note: The Office of Financial Aid estimates the State of IL Map Grant (Est) on enrollment of 15 hours per semester. If the student enrolls less than 15 hours per semester the State of IL MAP Grant (Est) will be prorated to actual hours enrolled. Also, if a student takes the same class more than two times, the student will not be eligible for the credit hours of State of IL MAP Grant (Est) for the third time.

Cost of Attendance – Indirect Costs

In addition to the direct costs listed above many students have additional indirect costs while attending BenU. Typical indirect costs include: Books and Supplies - \$1,540, Transportation - \$450 (residents) and \$1,800 (commuters), Personal Expenses - \$2,786, and Housing - \$12,018 (off campus) and 4,616 (commuters). Indirect costs can vary and are not payable to Benedictine.

Estimated Cost of Attendance includes averages of direct and indirect expenses for an academic year. The University uses estimated costs along with the information received from your FAFSA to determine your eligibility for federal, state, and university aid programs.

Billing and Payment

The Business Office is responsible for billing, maintaining tuition accounts, and disbursing financial aid after it has been authorized by the Office of Financial Aid. Tuition, fees, housing, and meal charges (if applicable) are due seven (7) calendar days after the start of class. A statement of account is generated each month and an email notification will be sent when the new statement is available.

Students may view and pay their accounts online by accessing www.ben.edu/mybenu. Benedictine University provides interest-free monthly payment options through MyBenU (administered by TouchNet). Students may set up plans to manage their out-of-pocket costs annually or per term. Students may enroll online through MyBenU or make a parent/guardian an authorized user to set up a payment plan. Please visit the Business Office’s website for enrollment instructions. The Business Office may be contacted by email at sar@ben.edu or by phone at 630-829-6503.