



Financial Aid Offer – This document highlights all financial aid offered to you for the 2022-2023 Academic Year. This offer includes any Benedictine scholarships and awards; federal and/or state grants; federal student loans; and work-study opportunities you may be eligible for.

Benedictine Institutional Funds Guidelines – Institutional scholarships are only available to eligible students enrolled in the traditional undergraduate program for the fall and spring semesters.

All Benedictine Institutional funds are designated for tuition only. The total amount of institutional funds offered from all sources cannot exceed the standard full-time tuition rate, which is based on enrollment of 12-18 credit hours. A student who chooses not to enroll as a full-time student will receive a pro-rated amount of their institutional funds.

Tuition Exchange or Tuition Remission awards and BU institutional funds are mutually exclusive and may not be combined.

On your Financial Aid Offer notification, you will see a section **Financial Aid Offer Summary**. This section breaks each direct and indirect charge component.

- **Tuition** – A student's tuition rate is based off their program 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.*

Cost of Attendance includes averages of direct and indirect expenses for an academic year. Direct costs are those charges that are directly billed to the student by Benedictine University. Indirect costs can vary and are not payable to Benedictine. These can include:

- Books and Supplies
- Transportation
- Personal Expenses
- Housing

Federal Work Study – Federal Work Study is not included in the remaining balance calculation as the Federal Work Study (FWS) program pays students directly for the hours worked in a Federal Work Study position. The FWS award provided is the amount the student is eligible to earn under the FWS 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 U.S. 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.

Federal Direct Loan offer is calculated based on the student's dependency status determined by the FAFSA results. 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. The Office of Financial Aid determines a student's loan eligibility by credits earned and applied in a student's program of study at the time of awarding. If your grade level changes after you are awarded, and you wish to be considered for additional loan funding based on that change, please contact the Office of Financial Aid.

Dependency Status	Academic Level	Maximum Subsidized Amount	Unsubsidized Amount	Annual combined maximum amounts undergraduate may borrow
Dependent	Freshman (0-29 earned credit hours)	\$3,500	\$2,000	\$5,500
	Sophomore (30-59 earned credit hours)	\$4,500	\$2,000	\$6,500
	Junior/Senior (60+ earned credit hours)	\$5,500	\$2,000	\$7,500
Independent	Freshman (0-29 earned credit hours)	\$3,500	\$6,000	\$9,500
	Sophomore (30-59 earned credit hours)	\$4,500	\$6,000	\$10,500
	Junior/Senior (60+ earned credit hours)	\$5,500	\$7,000	\$12,500

Federal Direct loans are placed in an "offered" status and require the student to take additional steps for those loan funds to be disbursed. If you are a first-time Federal Direct Loan borrower at BU, you are required by the federal government to complete the MPN and Entrance Counseling session.

- [Complete Federal Direct Master Promissory Note \(MPN\)](#)
- [Complete Entrance Counseling session](#)

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.

State of 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 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.

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.



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
- Unusually high medical expenses not covered by insurance

For more information and required documentation, visit our website at www.ben.edu

Loan Deferment – If you have previous student loans and are currently enrolled in an eligible degree-seeking program, you may be eligible for a deferment. A deferment allows you to temporarily postpone your student loan payments for a certain period of time. Your deferment eligibility depends on the date your student loan was first disbursed.

Your current enrollment is updated with the National Student Loan Clearinghouse after the start of each term. You can check to see if your loans have been deferred at [NSLDS Student Access](#). Continue to make student loan payments until your loans are listed as deferred.