

Financing My Education

Check into financial help, it's out there!

Many students hesitate to consider additional education because of tuition costs. If you think you can't afford it you need to know that many North Dakota students receive financial help from the state, federal government, the school they are attending, and private scholarships and institutions.

Discuss the types of financial assistance that are available. Refer to the following articles in the *Career Outlook*:

- FAFSA is the First Step to Getting Money for College, page 56
- Cut College Costs!, page 56
- Student Loans Are Not Free Money, page 57
- North Dakota: Estimated On-Campus Budgets, page 63
- Additional Financial Aid Information handout (3rd page of student activity sheet)

1. The acronym FAFSA stands for:
 - a. Funds Available for Supporting Academics
 - b. Financial Assistance for Student Aid
 - c. Federal Application for Student Aid
 - d. Free Application for Federal Student Aid

2. What are some differences between scholarships, student loans and grants? _____

3. Financial aid can consist of:
 - a. A grant, scholarship, work-study program or student loan
 - b. A job, stipend, or pay day loan
 - c. A scholarship, grant, or voucher
 - d. An IOU

4. Student loan payments should not be more than what percentage of your income?
 - a. 5%
 - b. 10%
 - c. 15%
 - d. 20%

5. How important are financial aid deadlines and what is the deadline date for the FAFSA?

6. Do I have to submit a FAFSA every year? YES NO

7. Do I have to have my parent's financial/tax information to apply? YES NO

8. What costs in addition to tuition should I expect to budget for? _____

9. Does it cost anything to submit the FAFSA? YES NO
10. What is the difference between a subsidized loan and an unsubsidized loan? _____

11. What are some factors than can affect the types of aid I might receive?
 a. Grade level
 b. Family size
 c. Income and assets
 d. All of the above
12. What happens if I don't pay back my loans? _____

13. Financial aid has some strings attached. You can lose your financial aid. Discuss several ways you may lose these dollars and write them below:

Deciding to go to college is an investment in you; you need to make the most of this opportunity by being informed and staying on track.

Web Resources:

Bank of North Dakota (BND)	https://bnd.nd.gov
Bank of North Dakota (BND) Student Loans of North Dakota	https://slnd.nd.gov
Bank of North Dakota (BND) Student Loan Services	https://bnd.nd.gov/studentloans/
Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Website	www.fafsa.gov
North Dakota University System (NDUS) Tuition & Fee Estimator Application	http://fees.ndus.edu
US Department of Education, Federal Student Aid	www.studentaid.ed.gov

Additional Financial Aid Information

Scholarships- usually based on your grades, test scores, and/or your talents. This is free money~ do not need to be paid back and no interest or borrowing fees! However, sometimes these awards are dependent upon if you continue to keep your grades up or perform at the level required. Student must fill out the necessary application forms and get them in by the deadlines indicated.

Grants- usually based on financial need and also do not need to be paid back. Great to get, but MUST get your FAFSA in early, money goes fast.

Loans- Need to be paid back with interest regardless if you finish your degree. Your repayment record does affect your credit rating. Several types of loans:

- **Subsidized Loan**- Must start to pay back the loan plus interest after a short period following leaving school.
- **Unsubsidized Loan**- Must start to pay back the interest while you are going to school, and pay until it is paid in full.
- **PLUS Loans**- The federal government offers parents of dependent students a Federal Direct Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS) to help pay education expenses for an undergraduate student enrolled at least half time in an eligible program at an eligible school.

Military Programs- Can provide financial assistance and additional training.

Work Programs- Allow students to earn money for educational costs as long as they work for the company when they are done with training.

Work Study- Often work part time on campus in a variety of jobs that seem to offer flexible schedules and are worth trying to get. Get your FAFSA in early.

Financial Aid Tips

- ✓ Soon after October 1st (if you're entering school in the fall) submit your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by mail or on-line at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- ✓ Remember, you must reapply for financial aid each year.
- ✓ Register with the Selective Service. It is required by law, and failure to register may prevent you from receiving federal financial aid.
- ✓ Drug charges may make you ineligible for federal financial aid.
- ✓ Find out about financial aid deadlines well in advance. Failure to meet a deadline may prevent you from entering school on time.
- ✓ If you are under 24, you will need to provide information about your parents' finances on most financial aid applications. Sit down with your parents and compile this information so you can use it on the applications.
- ✓ Keep copies of all your admissions and financial aid documents. Contact the financial aid offices of prospective schools and request information on grants and scholarships available through the school.
 - ✓ If you take out multiple student loans, you may find it easier to pay them off if you consolidate them into one monthly payment. For more information, visit <https://bnd.nd.gov/studentloans> and <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/consolidation>.