

# Boston University Financial Assistance

## Guide to Your Early Decision Financial Aid

### 2025/2026

Welcome to the Boston University Community!

We encourage you to share this information with anyone helping you with college expenses. If you have questions or concerns about any aspect of your financial aid, we are here to help!

### Next Steps for Early Decision Students

- ✓ Carefully review your financial aid and information provided on your [MyBU portal](#).
- ✓ Pay the enrollment deposit by the deadline listed on your admissions decision.
- ✓ File the **2025/2026 FAFSA** (available December 1<sup>st</sup> 2024) and make sure it is received by BU beginning in mid-January.
- ✓ Check your MyBU Applicant Portal in late March/early April for a finalized financial aid award with the 2025/2026 cost of attendance, 2025/2026 FAFSA and your 2023 income verification documents submitted.



\* You must be an eligible FAFSA filer as defined by the Department of Education (DOE). More details, including citizenship information can be found on the [federal student aid website](#). You and your parent(s) will need to provide consent for the IRS to provide your tax data with the DOE via Direct Data Exchange. You can get a head start by [setting up your FSA ID](#) now!

## How Financial Aid Awards are Determined

### What is included in my award?

Eligibility for Boston University need-based financial aid is based on information reported on your CSS Profile. Eligibility for federal student aid is based on information reported on your FAFSA.

We estimated your 2025/2026 eligibility for federal student aid based on the 2024/2025 cost of attendance and information reported on your CSS Profile because the 2025/2026 cost of attendance will not be available until spring 2025 and the 2025/2026 FAFSA will not be available to BU until late January. Once you submit the 2025/2026 FAFSA and any required Parent Income Documents, your award will be finalized for both BU Need-based aid and Federal Aid. **Students must meet the Citizenship requirements and be eligible to submit a FAFSA to remain eligible for BU need-based financial aid.** Your finalized award will also reflect the new 2025/2026 cost of attendance.

Your initial award has been grouped into three (or fewer) categories:

- **Total Need-Based Scholarship** – This need-based scholarship amount includes the total need-based scholarship aid that you will receive from **all** sources based on your CSS Profile information. The amount includes BU need-based Scholarship as well as Federal and State need-based grants. These scholarships and grants will **not** need to be repaid.
- **Student Work** – Federal Work-Study allows you to earn income for on-campus employment. Federal Work-Study is paid by a weekly paycheck as you earn it and will not apply directly to the bill.
- **Student Loan** – Federal/state student loans which you will repay after graduation.

### How is my award determined?

Your total need-based financial aid cannot exceed your demonstrated financial need and may include grant, scholarship, loan, and student employment. Our affordableBU commitment to you means that funding from one or more of these sources will be offered and the total will meet 100% of your demonstrated BU need. This does not mean that BU need-based aid will cover 100% of your cost and you should review your award and BU's cost of attendance to determine what your specific cost will be. Beyond the base level of student loan listed on your initial notification, you can borrow an additional \$2,000 at your discretion. [Visit our website](#) for more information on Federal Direct Loan terms.

When calculating your financial aid award, we subtract your family contribution from BU's cost of attendance. For the 2024/2025 academic year, total expenses for a student in university housing were \$90,207. Expenses for the 2025/2026 year will be [detailed on our website](#) once they are announced. Aid from all sources, including loans, cannot exceed the **total** cost of attendance, which included billed and non-billed expenses.

You and your family are responsible for covering the difference between the total billed expenses and your financial aid as well as repaying loans borrowed towards the cost of education. To help plan for these expenses, [visit our website](#).

### What will my award look like in future years?

With the BU Scholarship Assurance, the total amount of any BU scholarship aid is guaranteed for each of your undergraduate years for a maximum of 8 semesters. The names of individual BU awards may change from year-to-year, but the total dollar amount will not be less than the amount received in your initial year. Your aid cannot exceed your cost of attendance and you must meet academic requirements. Good news! Your BU scholarship aid will increase each year at the same percentage rate as any future tuition increase.

What this annual increase means, is that if BU tuition goes up 3.5% then your BU need-based financial aid will also be increased by 3.5%. It is important to know that this increase may not be for the same amount as the tuition increase since it is a percentage, and it also does not include any increases to the cost of dining plans and housing. Your total annual cost will likely increase each year you attend BU. For more important information on how to plan for the cost of all four years, visit our "[Just Admitted to BU?](#)" website.

BU uses a unique calculation to determine your demonstrated financial need over 4 years when we calculate your initial award. The calculation assumes that certain younger siblings will enroll in college and older siblings in college will graduate. This calculation allows us to offer you an award in your first year that takes these future changes into account. As a result, your aid will not increase in future years because of siblings entering college, but it also won't decrease if a sibling enrolled in college graduates.

### How to Renew your award?

If you already have a BU need-based scholarship, you will only need to re-file the FAFSA each year to re-apply for your federal and state aid. No need to complete the CSS Profile as your BU aid is automatically renewed with BU Scholarship Assurance!

If you have not received BU need-based aid in previous years and would like to be considered, you will need to apply as a new applicant. Please complete the FAFSA, CSS Profile, and submit an Appeal for Financial Assistance Reconsideration including parent tax returns and w-2s.



## Appeal for Reconsideration of Need-Based Aid Decision

Before you decide to enroll at BU, we strongly recommend that you make a plan and assess the financial feasibility of financing BU based on the initial award offered with your admission decision. BU Scholarship Assurance guarantees your award for up to eight semesters and is an important planning tool in making your enrollment decision.

If you have had a significant change in circumstances that will impact your plan for this year, BU Financial Assistance can review an appeal for reconsideration prior to your enrollment deposit deadline. Please submit a complete appeal as soon as possible during your appeal review window. We **cannot** consider any additional appeals after you have deposited for enrollment during your first year.

For more [information and instructions on submitting an appeal](#), as well as frequently asked questions, please visit our website. **Please do not email your appeal or supporting documents.** Appeals received via email **will not** be reviewed. We also **cannot** access documents submitted through **IDOC**.

Your enrollment deposit must be paid by the date stipulated by BU Admissions regardless of the status of any financial aid appeal unless you receive approval for a deposit extension from BU Admission.

## How to Maintain Your Eligibility

Sometimes plans change, which is ok! If you are planning to make any of the following changes to your enrollment, let us know so we can help you plan any potential changes to your award as a result.

- **Enrollment** - To be eligible for renewal of any financial aid under the BU Scholarship Assurance, you must be enrolled in at least 12 credits each semester. Reducing your enrollment to below 12 credits could result in a loss of part or all your aid.
- Changing your housing status from **Resident** to **Commuter** status.
- Name, Address, Housing, or Degree status.

**Maintain satisfactory academic progress** - To be eligible for renewal of financial aid, you must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.00 and complete 75% of your attempted courses. Satisfactory academic progress will be reviewed at the beginning of each academic year. Boston University also requires that students meet this same standard for credit-based loan certification, including federal, state, and private credit-based loans.

Once classes begin, students who withdraw or take a leave of absence during the first semester of the academic year will not be eligible for financial aid until they have completed at least 12 credits with a minimum GPA of 2.00, unless extenuating circumstances are documented.

Eligibility for federal funds is limited to 6 years of full-time undergraduate enrollment. Eligibility for University and state grant is limited to 8 semesters of full-time undergraduate enrollment.

**Notify BU Financial Assistance of receipt of additional aid** - Federal regulations require that your total financial aid not exceed your demonstrated financial need. You must promptly inform BU Financial Assistance in writing of any additional aid you receive from any source, either within or outside of Boston University, including scholarships, grants, tuition remission, Tuition Exchange Scholarship, ROTC, educational loans, or other aid. If you receive any additional aid, your need-based scholarship will be



reduced if your total aid from all sources exceeds your demonstrated financial need.

Please be aware of any deadlines or requirements to re-apply for Federal or State grants in subsequent academic years. If you do not receive state grant funds for which you are otherwise eligible, those funds will not be replaced with BU funds.

Fulfill your financial obligations to the University. Your financial aid may be canceled if you do not complete registration and settle your account by each semester's payment deadline.

## Scholarships and Grants

Scholarships and grants do not have to be repaid. BU scholarships are made possible in part by generous gifts from alumni and friends of the University. At any time during the academic year your Boston University Scholarship may become a 'named' scholarship if you meet the conditions of an award endowed by a specific donor.

## Student Employment

Students are encouraged to work part time during the academic year. There are many work opportunities on campus, for more information on work opportunities, [visit our website](#).

## Loans

Unlike scholarships and grants, loans must be repaid. For more information on specific loan programs including Federal Direct Student Loans, Massachusetts No Interest Loans, Federal PLUS Loans, and other credit-based loans, [visit our website](#).

## Net Price and Planning to Manage BU Expenses

In order to plan for both the direct and indirect expenses of BU, please view our [Planning Calculator](#) which will provide your Net Price with your financial aid.

By calculating your net price, you can plan for both billed expenses by BU, such as tuition, food, and housing, as well as associated expenses that students should plan for but are not directly billed by BU, like books and personal expenses.

Use our [planning information](#) to view next steps in planning for your expenses and to learn how to set realistic goals to limit your borrowing and ensure that any debt you accumulate as a BU undergraduate results in manageable repayments. Get tips on how to minimize your expenses and maximize your resources by being proactive in all aspects of your money management.

## Contacting BU Financial Assistance

We will be happy to assist you and your family with questions about the application process, eligibility criteria, and financing options.

Beginning on the first day of class, information about your specific aid application, eligibility, and financial aid will not be disclosed to your parent or guardian without your consent. Via the MyBU Student Portal you can 1) Consent to the release of certain information to a parent 2) Establish guest access for a parent to view certain academic and financial information. For more information, review the [Boston University Policy Regarding Release of Information to Parents and Guardians](#).

**Visit** our website at <https://www.bu.edu/finaid>.

**Questions? Ask Buzz!** Available for general questions any time of day.

**LiveChat** – financial aid counselors are available to answer your questions via live chat Tuesday & Thursday from 10AM-1PM (EST). Just visit the [financial aid website](#) and ask BUzz to “Speak with a Representative.”

**MyBU Student Portal** is where you see any next steps that may be required of you and upload any materials you need to submit to us.

**Call** 617-353-2965. If our telephone lines are

busy, we suggest that you call back later in the week.

**Email** [finaid@bu.edu](mailto:finaid@bu.edu). In most cases you will get a response within 5-7 business days. Please include your name and Boston University ID number in any email communication. BU Financial Assistance will routinely address communications to students at their BU email account. We urge you to check your email account frequently and forward information to anyone helping you with college expenses.

**Meet** with a Financial Assistance representative in person or virtually during one of our new student open house events in the spring.

