

# Princeton



## Undergraduate Financial Aid *Information and Application Instructions*

CLASS OF 2013

Princeton's NO-LOAN FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM assists all qualified applicants with generous need-based grants, making the University affordable to low- and middle-income families.

## Financial Aid for the Class of 2012

Family Income*		Average Grant**	What It Covers <i>tuition = \$34,290</i> <i>room + board = \$11,405</i>
\$0 – 75,000	●	\$45,800	Full tuition, room + board
\$75,000 – 100,000	●	\$39,300	Full tuition, 44% of room + board
\$100,000 – 120,000	●	\$35,750	Full tuition, 13% of room + board
\$120,000 – 140,000	●	\$32,250	94% of tuition
\$140,000 – 160,000	●	\$28,850	84% of tuition
\$160,000 – 180,000	●	\$26,000	76% of tuition
\$180,000 – 200,000	●	\$22,250	65% of tuition
\$200,000 and above <i>(most who qualify have 2 children in college)</i>	●	\$16,000	47% of tuition

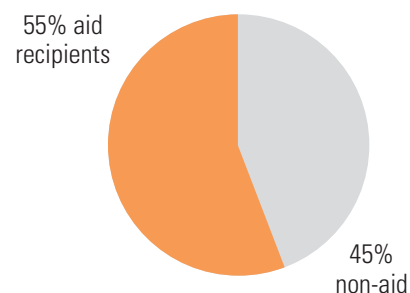
Of those who applied for aid:

● 100% qualify   ● 98% qualify   ● 82% qualify   ● 42% qualify

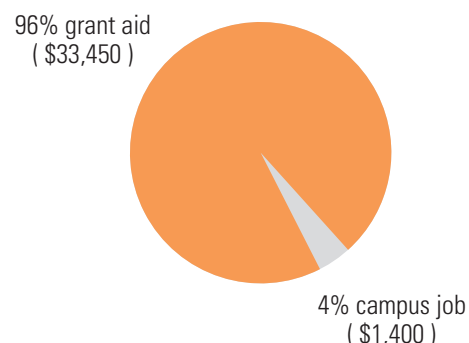
\* For families whose assets (not counting the family home and retirement funds) do not exceed the average reported amount of \$100,000.

\*\* A grant does not have to be repaid. Sometimes grants are referred to as “scholarships” or “gift aid.”

### Percent on aid



### Average aid award ( \$34,850 )



## How the Aid Program Works

Students submit their family's information on the Princeton Financial Aid Application.

Every application is reviewed individually and many factors other than income are considered.

The chart above shows the average grant awarded by income range. However, families within each income bracket qualify for a range of grant amounts.

Some families receiving larger-than-average grants have:

- three or more children
- more than one child in college at the same time
- significant expenses such as medical, dental, private school, child care, elder care, or other special concerns

Some families receiving smaller-than-average grants have:

- family assets (other than home and retirement funds) that exceed the average reported level of \$100,000
- complex income situations in which the tax return is not an accurate reflection of a family's financial position
- divorced or separated parents, when a contribution from the non-custodial parent is expected

*Students can estimate their eligibility for a specific amount of financial aid by using the Financial Aid Estimator <[www.princeton.edu/aid](http://www.princeton.edu/aid)>.*

Dear Applicants and Parents,

Over the last 10 years, Princeton's need-based financial aid program has made great strides in support of the University's commitment to provide access for low- and middle-income students. In 2001, Princeton replaced student loans with grants in all aid packages, establishing the first "no-loan" aid program in the country and making it possible for students to graduate debt-free. At the same time, we eliminated the value of a family's home from our need formula to relieve pressure on middle-income parents, extended need-blind admission to international students, and created an online Financial Aid Estimator to help families find out what they would be eligible to receive through our aid program. Each year since these landmark changes, we have continued to make affordability for a broad range of families our top priority. As a result, we maintain one of the strongest aid programs in the country and enroll a more economically diverse student body today than at any other time in Princeton's history.

As you can see in the data drawn from the Class of 2012 presented on the facing page of this booklet, generous need-based grants (which are like scholarships or "gift aid") cover as much as the full tuition, room and board costs for low-income families. Middle-income students receive substantial cost reductions, and even some higher-income families may qualify for partial discounts through grant aid. Princeton's individual approach to determining need for aid ensures that each applicant's family circumstances will be reviewed thoroughly, using judgment and flexibility when special consideration is warranted. Our fundamental aid philosophy is to make it possible for any student, regardless of his or her family's financial circumstances, to attend Princeton. We hope to achieve this by developing a partnership—parents and students contributing what they reasonably can, along with Princeton providing the grant aid needed to meet the difference—that will bring the cost of attendance within reach for all admitted students.

Since 2001, and particularly in the past year, many colleges and universities have followed Princeton's lead and reduced or eliminated student loans. Some have also expanded aid to low- and middle-income families. This positive trend in financial aid policies has benefitted students from across the country and around the world, and is by any measure a move in the right direction. However, the variety of aid programs, and different ways of describing how they work, might seem confusing to you in your college search process. I have the following advice to offer. First, list the schools you'd like to attend without regard to price, and then find out all you can about their aid programs. Next, make sure you understand how these aid programs work, how they compare to one another, and that the policies of the greatest importance to you and your family are represented on your list. Wherever possible, use the online financial aid calculators recommended by the schools to get an idea of your potential eligibility. And, finally, contact the aid offices directly to clear up any questions you might have.

I hope you will follow this advice and take a closer look at all that Princeton's aid program has to offer. Best of luck as you go forward with your college plans.

Sincerely,



Robin Moscato, Director  
Undergraduate Financial Aid

# How to Apply for Financial Aid

**T**he Princeton Financial Aid Office administers federal, state, and University funds. Admission to the University is need-blind for all students, including international students. This means that applying for aid is not in any way a disadvantage in the admission process. If you feel your family resources are insufficient to pay Princeton's yearly expenses and you think you will need financial assistance for 2009–10, please read the following instructions.

## The Princeton Financial Aid Application on the Web

Because of the amount of information that must be provided to fairly determine eligibility, applying for financial aid can be difficult. To simplify the process for you and your family, Princeton has developed its own financial aid application on the Web. The Princeton Financial Aid Application (PFAA) offers a number of advantages such as online accessibility, a customized form, and fast electronic communication. Furthermore, there is no fee charged for processing the PFAA. We hope the PFAA makes applying for aid at Princeton as easy as possible.

## How It Works

Applicants to the Class of 2013 can register for a log-in account on Princeton's website ([www.princeton.edu](http://www.princeton.edu), under "Admission & Aid"). Once you are registered on the secure server you will be able to apply for financial aid, complete the admission application, or both.

When you log in to the Princeton Financial Aid Application (PFAA), you will be offered the opportunity to use data you submitted on the College Scholarship Service PROFILE form (if you filed one) as part of your Princeton application. Note that we do not require the PROFILE and will not accept it alone as a complete financial aid application. However, you may find it convenient to include Princeton on the list of recipients if you are completing a PROFILE for another college and wish to incorporate your data in the appropriate sections of the Princeton application.

The PFAA accommodates all applicants, including Canadian and other international students. On average, you



and your parents will complete six short pages of information, much of which is entered once and shared from page to page. You will be able to save your data and return to the application as many times as you wish before submitting your PFAA to this office. After you submit your PFAA, you can continue to view it on the Web, but any new information must be sent by letter, fax, or e-mail. We will provide confirmation after we receive your application.

## Separated or Divorced Parents

If your parents are separated or divorced, and the parent you live with has not remarried, you will have one additional requirement to complete your aid application. Both parents are asked to provide their financial information so we can determine their individual contributions for college. You and your custodial parent should complete the PFAA on the Web. For the purpose of confidentiality, your non-custodial parent's information is submitted separately using Princeton's Non-custodial Parent's Form, which is available from this office and on our website in printable format. (However, if your custodial parent *has* remarried, then your stepparent's information should be included on all forms, and your non-custodial parent is not required to submit an additional application.)

Under exceptional circumstances the non-custodial parent's information may be waived at the discretion of the Financial Aid Office. Applicants can receive consideration for a waiver by giving an explanation of their situation in the appropriate section on the PFAA, or by letter, fax, or e-mail.

## Federal Student Aid Programs

The information you provide on your PFAA allows Princeton to estimate your eligibility for federal aid programs. We recommend you file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by April 15, 2009, to confirm your eligibility. If you receive an award from Princeton that includes estimated federal aid, you will be required to complete the FAFSA.

## Income Tax Returns

Princeton requires verification of the income information you enter on your application, which is usually estimated at the time of submission. You will be asked for copies of your parents' 2008 federal income tax return(s) and W-2 (wage and tax) statements when they are available. We strongly recommend that you provide these documents by March 15, 2009. Mail them directly to Box 591, Princeton, NJ 08542, or fax to 609-258-0336. (Do not use CSS IDOC.) If we receive the tax forms after making an initial offer of aid, your award may be adjusted based on

the actual income and tax figures if they differ from the amounts estimated on the PFAA. Your own 2008 tax return may also be required. If you or your parents do not file an income tax return, an alternate source of income verification must be provided.

### What to Do If You Cannot File on the Web

While the PFAA on the Web is the preferred method of applying for aid at Princeton, we understand that some families may not have ready access to the Internet. If you need an alternative to filing on the Web, please call the Financial Aid Office at 609-258-3330 to request a paper application.

If you have Internet access but are looking for a paper version of the application to use as a worksheet, we have provided a printable worksheet as part of the Web PFAA.

### Deadlines

The PFAA will be available on the Web beginning November 30, 2008. We recommend submitting this form by January 15, 2009, but no later than February 1, 2009. If your parents are divorced or separated, and the parent you live with has not remarried, the Non-custodial Parent's Form is also due by February 1, 2009. The FAFSA will be required from students accepting Princeton and should be completed after your parents complete their income tax return, but no later than April 15, 2009.

## Financial Aid Application Deadlines

Princeton does not require the CSS PROFILE form and will not accept it unless combined with the PFAA. In addition, tax forms and other supplemental information must be submitted directly to Princeton, not to the CSS IDOC service.

January 15 (but no later than February 1)	<i>Princeton Financial Aid Application on the Web* (or paper alternative)</i>
February 1	<i>Princeton Non-custodial Parent's Form* (if applicable)</i>
April 15	<i>FAFSA**</i>

Note: The filing deadlines indicated above enable the Financial Aid Office to provide an aid decision at the time admission notifications are mailed.

\* Available beginning November 30, 2008.

\*\* Available after January 1, 2009.

### Tips for Using the Princeton Financial Aid Application on the Web

The best way to complete your PFAA on the Web is for both you and a parent to work together on the computer. If this isn't possible, you can save a partially completed form, then return to finish and submit the application once all of the information needed has been gathered.

It is a good idea to prepare in advance by having the following information at hand:

• **Parents' estimated 2008 tax information**—adjusted gross income, federal income tax, and wage and salary figures

- **Parents' estimated 2008 untaxed income**—contributions to tax-deferred savings plans, benefits such as Social Security and VA, housing allowances, and all other sources
- **Current value of parents' assets**—savings, investments, total value of 529 college savings and/or prepaid tuition plans, real estate, and business or farm equity; excluding the family home and retirement funds
- **Student's taxable and untaxed income for 2008**—wages, interest and dividends, and untaxed benefits
- **Current value of student's assets**—savings, investments, trusts, and Uniform Gift to Minors
- **Family expenses anticipated for 2008**—especially school and college costs, unreimbursed medical and dental expenses, education loan payments, and other out-of-the-ordinary expenses.

The Financial Aid Office staff is available to help with problems you may encounter while using the PFAA on the Web. You can contact us by calling 609-258-3330, or send e-mail questions to [faoffice@princeton.edu](mailto:faoffice@princeton.edu).



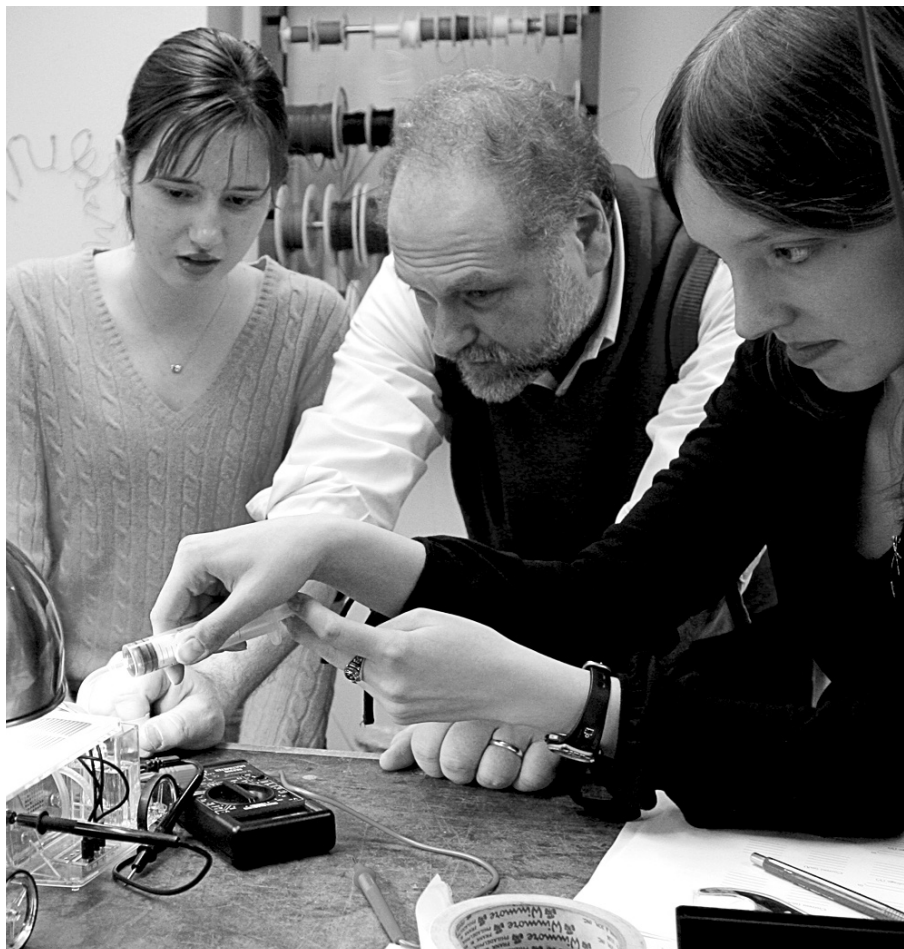
# Paying for a Princeton Education

**M**any families are understandably concerned about meeting educational costs, especially at private colleges like Princeton. To address these concerns, we have prepared the following two sections for prospective Princeton applicants and their parents.

**How to Pay for College** provides an overview of financing a college education and suggests ways to plan for these expenses. This section is relevant to families who plan to apply for financial aid, as well as those who may have adequate resources but are worried about paying large college bills over a short period.

**Princeton's Student Aid Program** is written specifically for families who plan to apply for aid. It describes Princeton's need-based program, including the way the family contribution is calculated and how aid is awarded in a "package" that consists of a combination of grants and self-help aid.

If you have questions about any aspect of financing a Princeton education, the staff of the Financial Aid Office will be pleased to talk to you on the phone or arrange for an on-campus interview. See the back cover for contact information.



## Fees and Expenses

### *Fees and Expenses for the Academic Year 2008–09*

Tuition . . . . .	\$34,290
Room charge . . . . .	6,205
Board rate . . . . .	5,200
Estimated miscellaneous expenses (books, supplies, laundry, telephone, recreation, etc.) . . . . .	3,495
Estimated total . . . . .	\$49,190

Tuition includes the matriculation fee and the use of the library, student health services, and laboratories. The room charge and board rate are standard for University dormitories and meal plans. Estimated miscellaneous expenses include the residential college fee, student government fee, and class

dues. These last three items, totaling about \$805, are billed centrally by the University for the convenience of the organizations involved. For students who are not covered under their family's medical insurance, Princeton offers the Student Health Plan at a cost of \$1,150.

Because the cost of goods and services continues to rise, charges for 2009–10 are expected to increase modestly.

The University bill is the sum of tuition, room, board, residential college fee, class dues, and the student government fee. The Student Health Plan charge is also included on the bill for those who participate. Financial aid credits are deducted, and the remaining family payment is due on either a semester or monthly basis.

## Financial Aid Refunds

Although financial assistance is awarded for the entire academic year, it is credited to a student's bill on a term basis. If a student withdraws before completing the year, credited aid will be available to pay expenses in the same proportion as they are incurred.

If not used to cover University charges, remaining aid credits will be returned to the sources from which they came as specified by program requirements. Upon withdrawing, students will receive detailed information from the Financial Aid Office.

# How to Pay for College

**W**hether or not you intend to apply for financial aid, there are two key elements to consider in planning to pay for a Princeton education: estimating costs and looking at family resources. The first step in financial planning is to make a realistic estimate of the total cost of attending college. At Princeton, tuition (covering matriculation and other fees) for 2008–09 is \$34,290. The room charge is \$6,205, board \$5,200, and books and miscellaneous expenses are estimated at \$3,495. Thus, a freshman's budget for the academic year, not including travel expenses, is \$49,190. Costs for 2009–10 are expected to increase modestly.

With an estimate of college expenses in mind, the next step is to see how much your family can contribute before considering need-based financial aid. To do this:

1. Divide estimated 2009–10 Princeton costs by 12 in order to get an idea of the monthly obligation.

2. With this monthly payment in mind, review how much might come from parental income and assets, the student's own savings or earnings, and other forms of help, such as merit scholarships or gifts from relatives.

3. As a result of this comparison between costs and available family resources, any candidate for admission should apply for aid if his or her parents feel they are unable to cover expenses.

There is no automatic income cut-off for Princeton's aid program, and each application is reviewed individually. Overall, about 55 percent of Princeton's Class of 2012 is receiving financial aid.

Let's look in detail at the three primary financial resources mentioned above:

1. the parental contribution;
2. the student's own share;
3. assistance unrelated to demonstrated financial need.

## The Parental Contribution

Princeton believes that parents should pay what they reasonably can toward the college expenses of their children. The amount of this contribution varies from family to family based on their individual resources. Parents with the lowest incomes

may be asked for a relatively small (or in some cases, zero) contribution, while higher-income families will pay a larger portion of Princeton's costs.

To determine the parental contribution for aid applicants, the information contained in the Princeton Financial Aid Application (PFAA) is analyzed using Princeton's own need formula. This formula examines income, assets, family size, the number of children attending college, and unusual expenses. Each individual aid application is given careful consideration, including the exercise of professional judgment when there are special circumstances. The staff of the Financial Aid Office is available to answer questions about Princeton's method of measuring a family's ability to pay for college.

Although the determination of the parental contribution includes variables other than income, the table in the front of this booklet gives a general indication of aid eligibility based on different ranges

of family income. For an estimate that is specific to your family's own circumstances, we suggest you use the Financial Aid Estimator on Princeton's website at [www.princeton.edu/aid](http://www.princeton.edu/aid).

Many students will clearly qualify for financial aid, and there is more information in the next section, Princeton's Student Aid Program, about how aid is awarded. Some families can afford to pay all educational expenses and simply want to learn about the options for paying the yearly bill. These are described below. Other families may find themselves in the middle—uncertain whether or not they will qualify for aid. Our advice to a family in this position is to apply for aid and let the aid office make a determination.

Princeton tries to make it easier to manage college expenses by providing two methods for paying the University bill within the academic year:

1. one payment each semester.
2. twelve monthly payments.



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Some parents, however, prefer to pay less each month than these plans allow. For these families there are two parent loan plans available with terms that can extend over a number of years:

1. The University offers the Princeton Parent Loan (PPL). This loan gives families the opportunity to borrow their share of Princeton's costs at either a variable or a fixed interest rate (currently expected to be approximately 5 percent variable and 6 percent fixed) that is adjusted before the start of each academic year. The PPL is available to families based on their credit history and ability to meet repayment terms. A single application can be used to apply for four years of borrowing, and parents have up to 14 years to repay. Further information about the PPL may be obtained from the Parent Loan Office, P.O. Box 35, Princeton, NJ 08543-0035, or on the Web through the Loans and Receivables link on the Undergraduate Financial Aid site.

2. PLUS is a federally sponsored loan to parents. Contact the Financial Aid Office for application information. Parents may borrow up to the cost of attendance less financial aid received. The PLUS interest rate is now fixed at 8.5 percent, and an application fee of 3 percent is charged by the lender. The 10-year repayment begins 60 days after the money is disbursed.

### **The Student's Own Share**

Undergraduates can assume responsibility for meeting a portion of their college expenses by:

1. working during both the academic year and the summer;
2. contributing a portion of their own savings as well as education benefits;
3. receiving a scholarship or grant from outside the University; and
4. borrowing a student loan.

Princeton asks aid recipients to make contributions from one or more of these sources and non-aid students may have access to similar funds.

### *Earnings*

A high percentage of Princeton's undergraduates are employed during the summer. Entering freshmen average about \$2,325 in net savings after living expenses have been met.

Princeton has an extensive student employment program that enables the University to offer jobs during the academic year not only to students who receive jobs as part of their aid package, but also to students who are not on financial aid. Aid recipients receive priority in placement and are notified of their workplace before they arrive on campus in September. Other students may apply for jobs at the Student Employment Office after aid students have been placed.

Students work in almost all areas of the University. Dining Services, the library, and the computing center are among the largest employers. There is also an agency system in which students operate their own businesses. A standard job, working 7.5 hours per week, should provide a freshman with approximately \$2,275 a year.

### *Savings and benefits*

Students should plan to contribute a percentage of their own savings and investments each year. In addition, some students are eligible for assistance specifically earmarked for educational costs such as VA or Social Security benefits.

### *Awards not requiring need for eligibility*

Awards based on merit rather than need are offered by a variety of sources. The most common are state scholarship agencies, civic organizations, community groups, charitable foundations, the military services, and corporations. In addition, some parents receive educational assistance for their children as part of an employee benefit program. Both students on financial aid and those who do not qualify for need-based awards may receive merit scholarships and prizes or tuition benefits.

The Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) sponsors an extensive scholarship program. Army ROTC has a unit at Princeton, and Air Force ROTC is available through a cooperative arrangement with Rutgers University. Further information is available in your high school guidance office or from the Princeton Army ROTC, P.O. Box 2151, Princeton, NJ 08543, and from AFROTC, Rutgers University, 9 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901.

It may be worthwhile to look for specialized scholarships. Students who wish to explore this opportunity should check the reference section of their high school or community library. Another source is the Internet. Several scholarship search programs are available on the Web at [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org).

### *Student loans*

Loans are available from various sources for students who choose to borrow. They are described briefly in the next section, "Princeton's Student Aid Program." More detailed information about loans can be requested from the Financial Aid Office, or found on our website.

### *Financial aid from Princeton*

As described in the next section, "Princeton's Student Aid Program," all University awards depend on financial need; there are no scholarships based on academic, extracurricular, or athletic talent. Princeton's financial aid package usually consists of a combination of a campus job and grant funds.

In 2008–09, the University expects to award \$87 million in scholarships. Of this amount, \$80.6 million is from Princeton's own resources, \$3 million from federal and state programs, and \$3.4 million from outside scholarships. In addition, Princeton aid students earn about \$2.2 million from campus jobs during the academic year.



# Princeton's Student Aid Program

**P**rincenton's aid program is based on four fundamental principles:

1. Admission to Princeton is need-blind for all applicants, including international students. Need for financial aid is not in any way a disadvantage in the admission process. Princeton welcomes applications from talented students of diverse economic backgrounds.

2. University aid is awarded solely on the basis of need. There are no merit scholarships.

3. Need is determined through a careful review of each family's financial circumstances.

4. The full need of every student is met with an award consisting of University grants, scholarships from external sources, and a campus job. No student is required to take a loan to pay Princeton's costs.

These principles are discussed under the following headings: "Determining Financial Need" and "Assigning Aid." A brief description of student loans is also provided. While loans are not included in the initial award, they are available on request to replace summer or term earnings shortfalls, or to help cover expenses beyond the standard student budget.

## Determining Financial Need

It is worth repeating that Princeton financial aid is awarded solely on the basis of financial need. No University aid is given based on a student's talents or achievements.



Need is defined as the difference between the student budget and Princeton's estimate of what the student and his or her family can afford to pay toward these expenses. The parents' contribution, the student's summer earnings, a portion of the student's own savings, and educational benefits are the family resources that are compared with Princeton's costs to judge whether or not the applicant needs financial assistance.

## The parents' contribution

Princeton's unique process of evaluating parental ability to pay for educational costs is based primarily on the information contained in the Princeton Financial Aid Application (PFAA). Princeton's own methodology is used, including the exercise of professional judgment for special circumstances. In addition, federal student aid eligibility is determined through the FAFSA application and a separate need formula.

The main elements we use in determining the parental contribution are family income, assets other than the family home and retirement funds, state and federal taxes, an allowance for family living expenses, and the costs of other family members in college.

Once the PFAA information is received, an aid counselor reviews the entire application and determines the expected family contribution. Families can get a preliminary idea of how much financial aid they might receive by using the Financial Aid Estimator at [www.princeton.edu/aid](http://www.princeton.edu/aid).

## Separated or divorced parents

When the parents of an aid applicant are separated or divorced, it is Princeton's policy to request financial information from both parents and to expect each of them to contribute to educational costs.

In applying for aid, the parent who has custody of the applicant should complete the PFAA and the FAFSA. (If custody is shared, the determination should be made by considering factors such as percent of time spent with each parent, level of support, and tax dependency status.) If the custodial parent has remarried, the stepparent's financial information must be included on these forms, and an

evaluation of need will be based on the income and assets of both the natural parent and the stepparent. Every effort will be made, however, to be sensitive to the stepparent's particular circumstances, especially if he or she has other financial commitments.

If the custodial parent has not remarried, the applicant's other parent must provide their information separately on Princeton's Non-custodial Parent's Form. Under exceptional circumstances the non-custodial parent's information may be waived at the discretion of the Financial Aid Office. Applicants can receive consideration by providing an explanation of their situation on the PFAA or in a separate letter to the aid office. Waivers are sometimes granted when the non-custodial parent has had no contact with the applicant for five years or longer, or when a more recent break in relations is due to extraordinary circumstances.

Lack of cooperation or unwillingness to pay are not sufficient reasons to waive the non-custodial parent's responsibility.

## Self-supporting students

Princeton expects parents to provide financial support according to their ability to pay throughout their children's college years. Should a student's parents discontinue their support for other than financial reasons, aid funds will not be available to replace the parents' contribution.

Guidelines for determining if an applicant is self-supporting according to the federal definition are included in the FAFSA. However, for the purpose of awarding its own funds, Princeton requires parental financial information for all students.

## The student's own contribution

In addition to the amount parents are asked to contribute, students are also expected to help meet a portion of their own educational costs each year. A student's share comes from summer employment, savings, and educational benefits.

A typical student entering in September 2008 was asked to contribute \$2,325 from summer earnings. The summer

contribution is less for low-income and international students. It is expected that this amount will increase for students entering in the fall of 2009.

### *Summer Savings Replacement Aid*

For students who are unable to meet the summer savings expectation, either because they don't earn enough or have high job-related expenses, Princeton offers the opportunity to receive replacement aid. This generous aid option allows students greater choice in their summer activities by replacing a savings shortfall with one-half grant and one-half additional job (or loan on request).

Students are expected to contribute 5 percent of their assets each year to their education. Student assets are defined as money that is in the student's name at the time he or she applies for aid. This includes funds that have been placed in a trust or given to the student under the Uniform Gift to Minors Act.

Additional sources of student contributions are Veterans Administration and other educational benefits.

### **Assigning Aid**

Once we have determined that the amount the applicant and his or her parents should be able to pay toward educational fees is less than the yearly cost of attending Princeton, we assign financial aid. We include two types of aid in our awards: scholarships or grants, and jobs.

The usual order of assigning assistance is:

1. external scholarships that are awarded to the student (such as National Merit or local community scholarships);
2. a campus job; and
3. Princeton grant funds.

### *External scholarships and grants*

An important part of Princeton's aid program is the expectation that students will receive scholarships from non-University sources. These scholarships, when combined with Princeton's own funds, enable the University to meet the

full need of all undergraduates. Applicants who win an outside award are required to notify the Financial Aid Office.

As an encouragement to apply for external scholarships, outside aid reduces or eliminates the term and summer job expectations. The Princeton grant is reduced only after these student work requirements have been eliminated. If the Princeton grant is reduced as the result of an outside scholarship adjustment, the lost funds may be recovered and used toward the one-time purchase of a personal computer. This policy of earnings reduction includes employer tuition benefits, but does not apply to the government grants described below.

Federal Pell Grants are funded by the government. Aid applicants apply for a Pell Grant (an award that currently ranges from \$890 to \$4,731) by filing the FAFSA.

Pell Grant recipients who are determined to be eligible for an Academic Competitiveness Grant will be notified during the school year and will receive an earnings reduction at that time.

Another source of government funds that can be used at Princeton is a state scholarship or grant. Residents of the following states may qualify for an award: Alaska, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Students should apply for state aid by completing the FAFSA and, in some cases, a separate state application. Applicants should contact either their high school guidance office or the state grant agency for more information.

### *Campus employment*

Most students will be offered a term-time job as part of their financial aid award. Princeton has developed an extensive campus employment program to encourage students to work and help pay for some of their college expenses. Part of the funding comes from the Federal Work-Study Program. Students are expected to use their earnings, paid directly to them every two weeks, to meet their book and personal expenses.

During their freshman year, students can meet their job earnings expectation if they work an average of 7.5 hours a week for 30 weeks.

Campus jobs are available in the library, dining halls, computing center, and various other departments. Freshmen are usually assigned jobs in the library or dining halls. Princeton encourages students to work in community service areas such as social services, transportation, public safety, crime prevention, recreation, youth service, and other activities specified in the Community Service Act under the Federal Work-Study Program. More information about these job opportunities is available from the Princeton Student Employment Office, P.O. Box 591, Princeton, NJ 08542, or on the Web at [www.princeton.edu/se](http://www.princeton.edu/se).

### *Princeton grants*

The University assigns grant funds from a variety of sources: endowment, general revenues, yearly gifts from alumni and friends, and federal programs.

Princeton grants are awarded on the basis of financial need. Some require recipients to meet other restrictions. Since the Financial Aid Office is responsible for matching students with specific Princeton funds, it is not necessary to file a separate application for University grants.

Graduates of New Jersey public high schools who are eligible for need-based grant aid from Princeton receive their awards from the Cane Fund. Cane recipients are not required to work (including both term-time and summer employment) and therefore receive a larger portion of grant aid in their award.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOGs) are government funds administered by Princeton and are assigned to students along with University grant funds. Preference in awarding SEOGs is given to students with the lowest expected family contributions.

### **Federal Student Aid Programs**

Many students receive a portion of their financial aid from federal funds: Work-Study, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, or Pell Grant. In addition, Perkins and Stafford loans are available on request.

Aside from filing a FAFSA and demonstrating financial need, a recipient



of federal aid must also be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, maintain satisfactory progress toward a degree, and be registered (if required) with the Selective Service.

Further information about eligibility requirements for federal student aid is available at [www.studentaid.ed.gov/funding](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov/funding).

### Loans

Initial financial aid awards do not include a student loan under our “no-loan” policy, which replaces the loan component with additional grant funds. However, loans from both federal and University sources are available to students on request. A brief description of the loans that can be obtained through the Financial Aid Office follows:

#### *Federal loans*

Both Perkins and Stafford loans are available to students who qualify under program rules. Typically, the government pays the interest on these loans until repayment begins after college. In other cases, the loan is “unsubsidized”—the student pays the yearly interest.

#### *University loans*

The University offers funds from its own resources to students who do not qualify for federal loans.

A brochure with more detailed descriptions of these loan programs

is available from the aid office and on our website ([www.princeton.edu/aid](http://www.princeton.edu/aid)). Information about specific terms is provided when the loan is requested.

### General Financial Aid Policy

Princeton provides aid to students who make satisfactory progress toward a degree and continue to demonstrate financial need. (The academic regulations section of Princeton’s *Undergraduate Announcement* contains a definition of satisfactory progress.) Students who are required to withdraw for disciplinary reasons will not be eligible for Princeton grant funds in a repeated semester. Campus employment and student loans are the only sources of aid available under those circumstances.

The amount and type of aid students receive is reviewed annually. However, adjustments may be made during the year if there are important changes in family resources or student budgets. The most common reasons for award revisions are differences in the information parents provide on the PFAA or the FAFSA compared with the income shown on their federal income tax return and W-2 forms, family financial problems such as loss of income or emergency expenses, and a shortfall in student summer savings.

Adjustments may be made in a student’s budget for costs that are not adequately covered by the book and personal expense allowance, such as unusual medical expenses. Aid increases to cover higher budgets are usually made with additional job funds, or a loan at the student’s request.

Each year students must reapply for financial aid by submitting a current Princeton Financial Aid Application and FAFSA, and their parents’ most recent federal income tax return, including W-2 statements. Princeton will not consider an aid application for grant funds after the last day of the academic year for which aid is requested. While the award received for freshman year provides an indication of the level of assistance a student can expect to receive in following years, aid may go up or down in individual cases depending on changes in a family’s financial circumstances. The most common

reasons for significant differences in grant amounts from one year to the next are large increases or decreases in family income, and changes in a sibling’s college enrollment status.

Typically, the parental contribution increases as family income rises from one year to the next. If the increase in parental contribution does not keep up with higher University charges, campus earnings and grant assistance are used to meet the additional need.

Finally, students can be assured that once they are enrolled, if they demonstrate need in subsequent years, Princeton will continue to provide financial aid.

Students who have questions or who would like additional information about financial aid at Princeton should write to the Office of Undergraduate Financial Aid, Princeton University, Box 591, Princeton, NJ 08542-0591, or call 609-258-3330.

### *Confidentiality Policy*

Since families divulge sensitive financial information to Princeton in the aid application process, we use all available measures to hold this data in strict confidence. Electronic material is protected with current technological safeguards to prevent unauthorized access. Paper records are similarly held in safe storage, and disposed of when necessary in a proper manner such as shredding. There are strict limitations on sharing information with parties other than students and their immediate family members. Organizations outside the University must obtain permission from the student and provide a signed release before receiving aid records. Princeton’s confidentiality policy assures families that their financial aid information will be used only for its intended purpose.



Undergraduate Financial Aid Office  
220 West College  
Box 591  
Princeton, NJ 08542-0591

Tel 609-258-3330 Fax 609-258-0336  
E-mail [faoffice@princeton.edu](mailto:faoffice@princeton.edu)

#### Nondiscrimination Statement

In compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and other federal, state, and local laws, Princeton University does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, national or ethnic origin, disability, or status as a disabled or Vietnam-era veteran in any phase of its employment process, in any phase of its admission or financial aid programs, or other aspects of its educational programs or activities. The vice provost for institutional equity and diversity is the individual designated by the University to coordinate its efforts to comply with Title IX, Section 504 and other equal opportunity and affirmative action regulations and laws. Questions or concerns regarding Title IX, Section 504 or other aspects of Princeton's equal opportunity or affirmative action programs should be directed to the Office of the Vice Provost for Institutional Equity and Diversity, Princeton University, 321 Nassau Hall, Princeton, NJ 08544 or (609) 258-6110.