

THE CATHOLIC
UNIVERSITY
OF AMERICA



Financial Aid Guide
2020–2021



Contact Information

OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSION

Please send application materials to: cua-admissions@cua.edu (email)

The Catholic University of America
Office of Undergraduate Admission
620 Michigan Ave., N.E.
Washington, DC 20064

202-319-5305 (*phone*) • 202-319-6533 (*fax*)

OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Please send application materials to: cua-finaid@cua.edu (email)

The Catholic University of America
Office of Student Financial Assistance
620 Michigan Ave., N.E.
Washington, DC 20064

202-319-5307 (*phone*) • 202-319-5573 (*fax*)

**Title IX Coordinator and
Equal Opportunity Officer contact:**

Frank Vinik
170 Leahy Hall • 202-319-4177 • titleix-coord@cua.edu

The Catholic University of America admits students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, age, religion, or disability to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded to students at the University.



@CUAadmission



@cuaadmission



cuaadmission



CatholicUadmission



CatholicUniversity



We are excited that you are considering Catholic University to meet your educational aspirations. The Office of Student Financial Assistance knows the importance of a good fit for you personally and financially. Over the last three years, 95% of our first-year students received scholarships and/or grants directly from Catholic University. Our merit-based awards typically average from \$15,000 to \$30,000 and need-based grants are available from \$1,000 to more than \$40,000 annually.

This guide will walk you through our financial aid application process, important deadline dates, give detailed explanations of our various merit-based and need-based aid programs, and offer additional resources for information regarding outside aid programs.

In light of the economic hardship families may be facing due to the Covid-19 pandemic, our financial assistance staff is ready to help. You and your parents can arrange to speak with a member of the counseling staff at any point in the process to address questions about special circumstances that may exist in your household.

We look forward to helping you make Catholic University the right fit for you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mindy M. Schaffer".

Mindy Schaffer
Executive Director of
Student Financial Assistance



Financial Assistance

There are a variety of factors that determine your official Catholic University aid package and costs. The Office of Student Financial Assistance completes a thorough evaluation of financial need in order to appropriately award aid to admitted students. Our goal is to make Catholic University an affordable choice for you and your family.

THE COST OF ATTENDANCE

We know that college costs reach beyond tuition and living expenses. Estimated cost of attendance at The Catholic University of America includes:

- ◆ Tuition and fees based on enrollment status
- ◆ Allowance for average room and average board costs*
- ◆ Allowance for books and supplies for a student taking a full academic schedule
- ◆ Allowance for transportation costs*
- ◆ Allowance for personal expenses*
- ◆ Average federal loan fees*

** student must be registered at least half-time*

EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION

The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is a measure of your family's financial strength and indicates how much of your and your family's financial resources should be available to help pay for your education. The U.S. Department of Education uses a need analysis formula called Federal Methodology (FM), along with the information reported on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), to calculate your EFC. In determining your EFC, the FM takes into account your family's:



- ◆ Income (taxable and untaxed)
- ◆ Assets
- ◆ Benefits
- ◆ Total size and specifically the number of family members who will be attending college

Your EFC from the FAFSA determines your eligibility for all federal and state grant and loan programs. Information from the FAFSA and the CSS PROFILE is used to calculate your eligibility for Catholic University grants.

COST-SAVINGS OPPORTUNITIES

- ◆ The University offers accelerated degree programs that can help you complete your traditional degree in less time. We also have programs that combine your undergraduate degree with a graduate degree, reducing the amount of time you are in school and thereby reducing the total cost of attendance.
- ◆ The Catholic University of America offers college credit for Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses and exams taken in high school. In some instances, if you have scored high on an AP or IB exam you can gain academic credit.
- ◆ At the University there is “flat rate” tuition for full-time study. You can maximize the value of this by taking up to 18 credits a semester (it costs the same as 12 or 15 credits per semester), which may help to accelerate degree completion in some programs.
- ◆ Catholic University offers a family grant to a student’s older sibling if two or more siblings are enrolled as full-time undergraduates at the University at the same time.

Financial Aid Checklist

Prospective students can begin applying for need-based financial assistance as early as October 1. Submitting these applications early ensures you will receive your financial aid award in a timely manner. Financial aid awards are not distributed until after students are offered admission to the University, so be sure to meet all admission application deadlines as well.

Save the checklist below to help stay on track with the financial assistance process at Catholic University.

After October 1: Begin Financial Aid Applications

- Complete the FAFSA online at studentaid.gov. Catholic University's FAFSA code is 001437.
- Complete the CSS PROFILE online at cssprofile.collegeboard.org. Entering first-year and transfer students seeking need-based institutional aid must complete this form in addition to the FAFSA. There is a small application fee. Catholic University's CSS PROFILE code is 5104.

December: Early Decision I Notification

- Early Decision I applicants will receive notification of their need-based financial aid award with their acceptance letter. Students must meet priority filing deadlines for FAFSA and CSS PROFILE.

January: Review Financial Aid Awards

- Early Action applicants will receive their need-based financial aid award in late January after they have been offered admission to Catholic University.
- Review the award letter you receive in the mail or view your award online in Cardinal Station (login credentials will be provided).

Important Dates

DEADLINES AND NOTIFICATIONS



FAFSA and CSS Profile

*Available to
high school seniors*



Early Action and Early Decision I Students

*Priority deadline to apply for
need-based aid*



Early Decision II and Regular Decision Students

*Priority deadline to apply for
need-based aid*

- Submit any verification documents or missing information requested by the Office of Student Financial Assistance.

March: Review Financial Aid Awards

- Regular Decision and Early Decision II applicants will receive their need-based financial aid award once they have been offered admission to Catholic University.
- Review the award letter you receive in the mail or view your award online in Cardinal Station (login credentials will be provided).

April to May: Accept Awards and Provide Documentation

- Accept or decline any merit- and need-based awards online in Cardinal Station.
- Report any outside assistance (outside scholarships, tuition waivers, etc.) to the Office of Student Financial Assistance by completing a Notice of Additional Resource form.
- Determine funding sources for any remaining unmet need (for example Tuition Payment Plan, Private Loans).

July: Review Your Bill

- Students who enroll at Catholic University will receive their first bill by early July. The bill will reflect pending financial aid awards that have been applied to the cost of attendance.

Allow extra time for corrections or verification procedures. Some sources of need-based aid may be depleted if you wait until late in the year; therefore, it is wise to file the FAFSA as early as possible.

** Early Decision applicants will receive financial aid information at the time of admission.*



Early Action Students
*Notification of need-based
financial aid award*



Regular Decision Students
*Notification of need-based
financial aid award*



**National Candidates
Reply Date**
*Deadline to submit fall 2021
enrollment deposit*



Non-Need-Based Programs

SCHOLARSHIPS

All First-Year and Transfer scholarships are awarded by the Office of Undergraduate Admission. Consideration for University scholarships is made during the admission application process. University scholarships are awarded based on prior academic performance and are not subject to future increases (except for the Archdiocesan Scholarship). Scholarships and grants currently range from \$1,000 to full tuition.

Archdiocesan Scholarship — Full Tuition

Catholic University Merit Scholarship — \$15,000–\$30,000 annually

Parish Scholarship — \$4,000 annually

For more information about scholarships, visit catholic.edu/scholarships.

GRANTS

Legacy Grant

Recognizing the importance of family tradition, the \$1,000 Legacy Grant is automatically awarded to all admitted students who have had a parent, grandparent, or sibling receive a degree from Catholic University.



Family (Sibling) Grant

If a family has two or more dependent children concurrently registered as full-time students (attempting a minimum of 12 credit hours) pursuing their first undergraduate degrees, the older sibling(s) is (are) eligible for a Catholic University Family Grant of \$2,000 per year. In order to be eligible, families must submit a grant application form to the Office of Student Financial Assistance.

LOANS

Commercial (Alternative/Private) Loans

Private loans, also known as alternative loans, help bridge the gap between the actual cost of education and the limited amount available from federal loan programs.

Interest-Free Payment Plan

The University payment plan has no eligibility requirements and can cover amounts up to the cost of attendance. Visit enrollmentservices.catholic.edu/paymentplan.cfm for more information about the online application with the University's payment plan partner.

Need-Based Programs

Catholic University offers a variety of need-based financial assistance to eligible students and families. To be considered for federal need-based awards, students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which is used to determine a student's eligibility for Federal Aid. Students seeking consideration for Catholic University need-based aid are also required to complete the CSS PROFILE.

Regardless of economic background, we strongly encourage students to file the FAFSA and CSS PROFILE in order to be considered for all need-based awards. Need-based awards include grants (which do not need to be repaid), loans (which must be repaid), and campus work-study jobs, with funding provided by state, federal, and University sources.

GRANTS

Catholic University Undergraduate Need-Based Grant

As noted previously, students are required to complete the FAFSA and CSS PROFILE to receive full consideration for Catholic University need-based grants. It is essential that students meet the established deadlines to be considered for all sources of financial assistance. Currently, need-based grants range from \$1,000 to more than \$40,000 annually.

Federal Pell Grant

Federal Pell Grant eligibility is determined by the U.S. Department of Education based on student financial need as indicated by the FAFSA. Amounts vary.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)

Federal SEOG eligibility is based on student financial need as indicated by the FAFSA. Students who receive Federal Pell grants are given priority for a SEOG grant.



State Grants

Most states provide grants for eligible residents. Although many states do not allow their awards to be used at institutions in other states, some state awards may be used at Catholic University. You should contact your State Scholarship Administration for eligibility requirements and application procedures.

LOANS

Federal Direct Loan

Low-interest loans from the Department of Education. Federal Direct Loan eligibility is determined by the Department of Education based on student financial need as indicated by the FAFSA.

Federal Parent PLUS Loan

Parents may apply for a Federal PLUS Loan to meet education costs. Approval requires a credit check. Loans can be taken up to the entire cost of attendance minus other financial aid.

Federal Work-Study

This program gives you the opportunity to earn money by working part-time during the school year. Federal Work-Study eligibility is based on student financial need as indicated by the FAFSA. Amounts vary. (Other employment opportunities are available to students who are not eligible for or not offered Federal Work-Study.)





Frequently Asked Questions

Financing an education can be daunting. To help take the mystery out of financial aid, we've answered some of the questions families ask about financing a Catholic University education.

Does applying for Early Action or Early Decision hurt my chances of receiving adequate financial assistance?

No. Merit- and need-based financial assistance awards to Early Action and Early Decision students are exactly the same as for students applying under the Regular Decision program. There is no competitive advantage for the University's financial assistance.

Can I apply for financial aid before I am admitted?

Yes. It is essential that students apply even if they have not yet been admitted so that we may process their aid application as soon as possible upon acceptance. However, students will not receive a financial aid award letter unless they are offered admission.

What should I do if my parents haven't filed their taxes yet?

The FAFSA and CSS PROFILE use information from the family's prior tax year. So in almost all cases, students are able to complete their forms with accurate information from completed tax returns. For more information visit fafsa.ed.gov.



Should I apply for financial aid each year?

Yes. Students must update their financial records by filing the upcoming year's FAFSA every year to reestablish eligibility for federal aid programs and the Catholic University Undergraduate Need-Based Grant. Continuing students do not need to file the CSS PROFILE.

Is there an income cutoff for financial aid?

No. Income is a factor when determining eligibility for need-based aid, but other factors are also taken into account, such as household size, number in college, and the age of the oldest parent. We recommend that all students file for aid so that their eligibility can be evaluated using all of the necessary information. Students/parents need to file a FAFSA if they want to take advantage of the federal and PLUS loan programs.

How is financial need determined?

Financial need for federal aid programs and institutional grants is determined by subtracting the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) from the total cost of education for the year. Of course, costs vary among colleges and universities, so need will also vary from one institution to another. The EFC is influenced by many factors, including parents' and student's income and assets, the household size, and the number of family members enrolled in college.

What if my parents are unable to meet the parent contribution?

Catholic University offers a number of loan options and a University payment plan that can help make paying for a Catholic University education a manageable expense. Parents may need to consider ways to pay based on their income, assets, ability to borrow, and their own financial priorities.

Does Catholic University fund the full difference between the cost of my attendance and my family's EFC?

Catholic University is not able to meet the full need of every student offered admission. Our need-based grants range between \$1,000 and more than \$40,000, so the exact percentage of need met varies from student to student. Typically, a need-based financial assistance package will meet from 80% to 90% of the demonstrated need. Over the last three years, more than 95% of first-year students received scholarships and/or grants directly from Catholic University. Funding typically consists of a combination of academic scholarships, the Catholic University Need-Based Grant, and federal need-based grants, loans, and work-study programs. Additional funding options include the federal Parent PLUS Loan program, a variety of commercial loans, and the University payment plan.

When and how will I find out how much aid I can receive?

All students learn about merit-based scholarships with their offer of admission.

- Students who are admitted through the binding Early Decision Program receive their need-based financial assistance information in their acceptance packet.
- Students who are admitted through the non-binding Early Action Program receive their need-based financial assistance information before Feb. 1.
- Students who are admitted through the Regular Decision Program receive their need-based financial assistance information in mid-March.

In all cases, students must meet the priority FAFSA and CSS PROFILE deadlines to ensure that they will be awarded on time.

Can I lose my financial aid if I don't maintain a certain GPA?

Eligibility for Financial Aid is contingent upon maintaining Catholic University's minimum standards for academic progress. Students receiving selected academic-based scholarships may have to meet additional academic standards to retain these awards.

Is aid guaranteed in future years?

Catholic University's policy is to try to maintain University assistance at the same level for each of our students' four years, while adhering to institutional and federal financial aid policies and regulations regarding financial need. However, the Catholic University Need-Based Grant and all student federal aid programs are based on need, so we cannot guarantee annual eligibility. If a student's family income level changes markedly or the number of children in college changes, then financial aid eligibility can be affected from year to year. Four-year academic scholarships, however, will be automatically renewed each year as long as students meet specific program requirements.

96%

of first-year students received scholarships and/or grants directly from Catholic University over the last three years.

\$70

is offered in MERIT and NEED-BASED aid each year for undergraduates.

MILLION +

\$65,236

is the 2020-2021 ESTIMATED COST OF ATTENDANCE (*full-time*), including tuition, room and board, and fees.



\$33,325

is the average tuition and room-and-board cost after Catholic University scholarships and grants to first-year students over the last three years.



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credits per semester are included in the FLAT-RATE TUITION.





Office of Undergraduate Admission
620 Michigan Ave., N.E.
Washington, DC 20064