



Getting Started with Financial Aid

HARDING UNIVERSITY



HARDING

Paying for College

A Harding University education can change your life and help you change the lives of others as you pursue your calling and vocation. We know that affordability is one of the biggest considerations – your financial aid being one of the most significant factors.

Your admittance to Harding creates a financial partnership between Harding University, you as a student and your family. Harding offers a variety of assistance programs to help bridge the gap between the cost of attendance and your family’s financial resources. By working together with our professional staff, we want to help you fund and achieve your educational goals.

Financial Aid

If you think you will need assistance to pay for educational expenses, we recommend that you apply for financial aid. While you and your family have the primary responsibility of paying for your education, federal, state and Harding funded aid is available to help you pay college expenses. These expenses include tuition, fees, room, board, books and supplies.

The goal of the financial aid process is to arrive at a manageable balance between financial aid and out-of-pocket expense.

Types of Aid

- **Grants** – Money that does not have to be repaid and is usually based on financial need
- **Scholarships** – Money that does not have to be repaid and usually is awarded on the basis of academic merit
- **Loans** – Money that is borrowed and must be repaid with interest
- **Work-Study** – Money earned from an on-campus job

To determine whether you are eligible for most financial aid, you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Visit studentaid.gov to review the application and requirements and apply.

Terminology

One of the most important factors when selecting a college is whether the institution will meet your educational needs. Additionally, you and your family must consider the cost to attend the school when deciding where to enroll. It’s helpful to know some of the financial language you might encounter while considering your options.

Cost of Attendance (COA)

The federal government defines Cost of Attendance to include tuition, fees, housing, meal plan, books and supplies, personal expenses and transportation. Financial aid can be awarded to cover all of these items. However, only tuition, fees, housing and meal plan are considered Direct Costs and billable by the school to your student account.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

Expected Family Contribution is an estimate of a student's and parents' ability to pay the costs of a year of post-secondary education. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) computes EFC using FAFSA information such as income, taxes paid, number in household, number in college, assets, etc. The resulting EFC is an index number used to determine eligibility for federal Pell Grant and other need based aid.

Financial Need

Financial need is the difference between Cost of Attendance and your Expected Family Contribution. Cost of Attendance minus Expected Family Contribution equals Financial Need. Harding funded need-based aid is calculated on the amount of remaining need after Cost of Attendance minus Expected Family Contribution minus all other grants and scholarships.

Net Price Calculator

To help determine the financial aid you may receive, a Net Price Calculator is available on the Harding website. This tool calculates an estimated financial aid award package along with an estimated cost of tuition and fees. The Net Price Calculator also helps compare costs at Harding to other institutions to determine which colleges are most affordable for you. Visit harding.edu/finaid to access the Net Price Calculator.

Financial Aid Package

Your financial aid package from Harding is based on your financial need. It may include various types of financial aid to help cover all or part of your college costs. If you have financial need, you may also be eligible for grants, work-study and subsidized loans.

Programs to Help Pay for Your Education

Federally Funded Aid Programs

Pell Grant – A need-based grant that can amount to several thousand dollars, and is based on FAFSA Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

Work Study – Part-time campus employment which pays minimum wage for hours worked.

Direct Student Loan – Guaranteed loans in the student’s name, amounts vary by classification. Students may receive need-based interest subsidy.

TEACH Grant/Loan – Program based on teaching (following degree completion) in an approved high-need field in a qualifying school system serving needy students.

Parent PLUS Loan – A credit-based loan to a student’s parent, amount determined by the student’s Cost of Attendance.

Tuition Payment Plan

Harding offers a monthly installment payment plan to help families budget tuition and fee expenses. For details about the program visit harding.edu/businessoffice.

Harding Funded Scholarships and Discounts

Depending on need and academic performance, students may receive an Academic Achievement Scholarship, a Bison Grant or both.

Academic Achievement Scholarship – Merit-based and calculated using a combination of high school GPA and ACT/SAT score. Scholarship is renewable for four years (eight semesters), and ranges from \$2,000 to \$11,000 per year. Students must maintain full-time status of 12 hours or more and a GPA of 3.0 or better to remain eligible.

Bison Grant – Need-based aid, renewable for four years (eight semesters). Amount is based on EFC from your FAFSA each year, calculated as a percentage of remaining need after EFC and all other grants and scholarships have been applied. Students must maintain full-time status enrolled in 12 hours or more to remain eligible.

You may be eligible for additional Harding funded aid or discounts. Visit harding.edu/scholarships to see what is available.

Other Scholarships

There are thousands of private organizations that provide scholarship assistance to college students. These scholarships are based on a variety of factors. Visit harding.edu/scholarships. Also check for other funding options through your high school guidance counselor.

Getting Started Ideally Junior Year

Connect with your admissions counselor

Apply for admission and complete the admission process to reserve your spot in your freshman class at Harding

Review harding.edu/finaid

Review harding.edu/scholarships to identify eligibility for scholarships and discounts

Use the FAFSA estimator to determine your approximate EFC using the FAFSA4CASTER at studentaid.gov > **Understand Aid > Estimate Your Financial Aid**

Use the Net Price Calculator to estimate your scholarships and financial aid harding.edu/NPC

Attend a Harding visit day such as Bison Days, Black and Gold Day, or schedule a personal visit harding.edu/visit

The summer following your junior year, consider attending one of Harding's summer programs for academics, leadership, music, athletics and others. You can get college credit and experience an extended preview of life at Harding. harding.edu/summer

Admitted Juniors and Seniors

Stay in contact with your admissions counselor

Once admitted, you will receive a notification of your student account and email address

Login to Pipeline, Harding's student information portal pipeline.harding.edu

Research additional scholarships:

- Talk to your school counselor about local scholarships.
- Check with your church — some congregations provide scholarships. Harding matches some church scholarships up to \$500

Attend a Harding meet up for admitted students in your area — you can meet some of your classmates and even find a roommate harding.edu/events

Or, if a meet up is not convenient, attend a visit day or schedule an individual visit on campus harding.edu/visit

If you haven't already, complete any outstanding steps in the Getting Started column at left



Admitted Seniors

October: Complete the FAFSA on or after Oct. 1 studentaid.gov
Use Harding school code: **001097**

November: Receive initial financial aid award package. Awards will be updated if FAFSA is received after the initial award is sent (NOTE: Need-based awards will be made only if a FAFSA is submitted)

Once award packet is received:

- Login to Pipeline
- Accept awards
- Set up Proxy
- Review payment options

January: Register for Bison Bound summer orientation

Identify additional funding options

- Student loans
- Discounts
- Payment plans
- Parent loans

May/June: Graduate high school!

June/July/August: Attend Bison Bound orientation, register for classes

August: Move in! Attend IMPACT for new students

Your aid funds will be applied to your student account on the first day of classes.

YOU *Belong* AT HARDING!

HARDING





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