

# Options to cover the college bill

## What is the college bill?

The bill is what you are responsible for paying to your college after financial aid is applied to your online account. It covers tuition/fees and room/board (if living on campus).

## Key facts:

- Semester-based colleges have a fall bill and a spring bill.
- Quarter/trimester-based colleges have fall, winter, and spring bills.

### How will I receive my college bill?

Your bill will be sent to you through email or posted on your online account

### What are my options for paying the bill?



Savings, 529 Plans (if applicable)



Arrange a tuition payment plan



Summer earnings



Parent PLUS Loans



Research last minute scholarships



Alternative private loans (use caution!)

## Quick tips:

- Learn more about the options to cover your bill on the **next page!**
- Remember that money from work study is earned like any other job, so it won't be available to pay your first bill of the year.
- Don't forget to plan for the indirect expenses you might have to cover during the year, like books, travel, and dorm supplies!

# What is a tuition payment plan?

- A payment plan allows you to pay your bill throughout the academic year in monthly installments, instead of all at once at the beginning of a term.
- There is generally a registration fee to enroll, but no interest is charged.
- Check with your school for registration information and deadlines!

# What is the Parent PLUS Loan?

- The federal Parent PLUS loan lets parent(s) apply to borrow money to pay for costs not already covered by a student's financial aid package, up to the full cost of attendance.
- PLUS Loan does not need to be paid back right away, but interest will accrue!
- Current fixed interest rate of 8.05% (will change on July 1, 2024)

## How do I apply for the Parent PLUS Loan?



- Parents must complete a Direct PLUS Loan application and promissory note on [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov)
- Check with your college to ensure they do not have any additional forms
- If parent(s) are denied the PLUS loan, the student will automatically become eligible for an additional \$4,000 unsubsidized federal student loan.

# What are alternative private loans?

- Educational loans offered by private banks and companies, instead of the government.
- The lowest interest rates will go to borrowers with high credit scores, and lenders usually advertise their lowest rates.
- Most lenders will not give the complete loan details until after the application is complete.
- Remember you will need to cover your bill every year in college—private loans can add up quickly and leave you with a hefty monthly payment once you graduate or drop below half-time enrollment.

## How do I find reputable private loan lenders?\*



- State agencies like [MEFA](#) that offer private loans.
- **Sparrow**: online search platform to compare loan rates and get pre-approved.
- Private companies that specialize in student loans (like [Sallie Mae](#) and [SoFi](#))