

Cornell University

Financial Aid and Student Employment Frequently Asked Questions

“We want you to fully understand your financial aid package so that you can confidently accept Cornell’s offer of admission.” - Susan Hitchcock, Director of Financial Aid



How does Cornell calculate my Family Contribution?

The Parent Contribution is based on multiple factors, including the number of people in your household, the number of children in your household enrolled full-time in an undergraduate degree-seeking program, and your parents’ income and assets.

The Student Contribution is a combination of a Summer Savings Expectation (SSE) and a Student Contribution from Assets (SCA). The SSE is the amount that Cornell expects you to earn and save during the summer before the academic year.

How can I appeal my financial aid?

Our Appeal Application is posted online at <http://finaid.cornell.edu/forms>. We consider appeals when there is new information that affects your family’s ability to meet the expected family contribution, or if you think we may have overlooked some aspect of your family’s financial circumstances.

If you receive a more favorable need-based aid offer from another Ivy League institution, Stanford, MIT, or Duke, we also welcome the opportunity to match their offer of financial aid. Please send us the Appeal Application along with a copy of the financial aid letter from the other institution.

We will often request additional information as part of the Appeal Application. Once the information is received, your appeal will be reviewed within 5-7 business days.



What do I need to do to accept my student loan?

If you have loans as part of your financial aid award, you will need to take action prior to the start of school to accept them. You’ll be receiving an email with further instructions when it is time to sign electronic promissory notes and complete entrance counseling.

If you wish to decline any of your loans, email us at finaid@cornell.edu. Please include your name and Student ID number and the loan(s) you wish to decline.

Office of Financial Aid and Student Employment

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00am-4:30pm, except Tue 9:30am-4:30pm

Telephone Hours: Mon-Fri 10:00am-4:00pm

April Walk-In Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00am-3:00pm

203 Day Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853

607.255.5145 | finaid@cornell.edu

<http://finaid.cornell.edu>



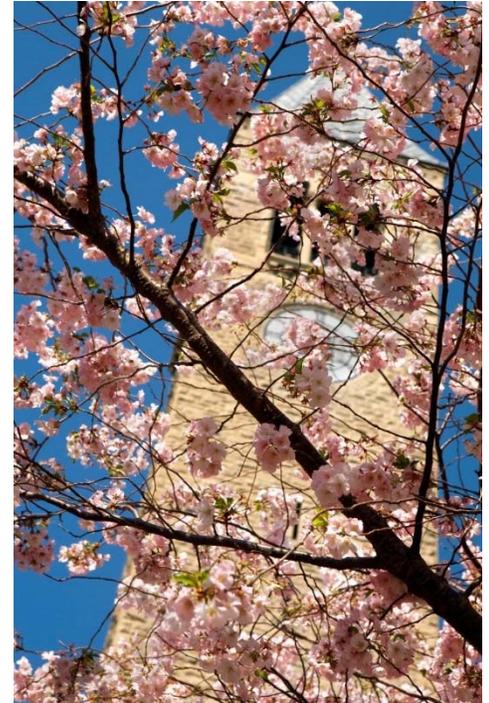
How do outside scholarships and tuition benefits affect my financial aid award?

Outside scholarships or tuition benefits will reduce the self-help component (loans and work-study) of your financial aid package, but will not reduce the family contribution. Any resources raised through crowdsourcing will be treated as outside scholarship funds. All financial aid recipients are required to notify the Office of Financial Aid and Student Employment of any outside awards they expect to receive.

How can I finance the family contribution?

Here are potential financing resources:

- The **Cornell Installment Plan** allows you to pay your bursar bill in equal monthly installments. There are no interest or finance charges; only a small annual enrollment fee. Information can be found at <http://bursar.cornell.edu>.
- First-year students can borrow **William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan** to help meet their financial need. Information can be found at <http://finaid.cornell.edu/newly-admitted-students>.
- The **Federal Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS Loan)** is a loan in the parent's name to help with educational expenses. Visit <http://finaid.cornell.edu>.
- Students can apply for an **Alternative Loan** through an outside lender to help cover educational expenses. Information can be found at <http://finaid.cornell.edu>.
- Parents with home equity may want to speak with their bank about **Home Equity Loans or Lines of Credit**.



How can I find campus employment?

You may have Federal Work-Study or Employment Earnings Eligibility (not Federal Work-Study) in your financial aid award. Regardless of your eligibility for financial aid, Cornell offers a wide variety of part-time jobs. You can work as a student employee as long as you remain registered full-time in a degree-granting program.

To explore available jobs: check out online postings (<http://studentemployment.cornell.edu>), contact potential employers, and speak with current Cornell students during orientation about employment opportunities.

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