

Important Questions to Ask the Financial Aid Office

The following are some important questions to ask the financial aid office at each college to which you have been accepted. Some of this information may be available during Open House programs, and may also be found in the Financial Aid section of college websites.

1. What is the total cost of attendance (COA) at this college? What is included in the COA broken down by billed costs and incidentals?
2. If I haven't applied for financial aid, is it still possible to do so and what financial aid forms are required?
3. Are there merit-based scholarships? If the student did not receive a merit-based scholarship in the freshman award, is it possible to still apply?
4. Assuming cost and family responsibility remain constant, how will grant and loan amounts change from year to year? What if my situation changes?
5. Are there conditions such as grade point average, enrollment status, or major to renew my scholarships and grants each year?
6. Are students required to apply for financial aid even if they only receive a merit scholarship?
7. How does the college treat outside scholarships in the financial aid package?
8. What does the college estimate the total student debt will be upon graduation?
9. What is the college's job placement rate?
10. How can I appeal my financial aid award?