

Financial Aid
Handbook
Dickinson College
2025-2026

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INTRODUCTION

This booklet is designed to answer many of the questions students and their families ask about Dickinson College's financial aid program. Additional information, specifically designed for prospective students, is available from the [Admissions Office](#). The information in this booklet is arranged under general headings which appear in the form of questions, such as, "How do I apply?" The headings should help you locate answers to specific questions. We strongly encourage you to read the entire booklet so that you will have a clear understanding of all the financial aid policies applicable to attendance at Dickinson. Please contact the Office of Financial Aid staff if you have additional questions. Contact information and staff directory can be found on [Page 24](#) of the handbook.

Note: Many financial aid policies are governed by federal regulation and could be impacted by changes to federal law. This Financial Aid Handbook is for the 2025-2026 academic year. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) has made significant changes that will impact federal financial aid for the 2026-27 academic year. We are working through those changes and awaiting further guidance from the Department of Education.

OVERVIEW OF DICKINSON'S FINANCIAL AID POLICIES

- **Paying for a college education is primarily a family responsibility.** Need-based financial aid is provided as a supplement to the family's contribution. When parents are divorced, separated or never married, the ability of the noncustodial parent to contribute to college costs will be considered part of the family's financial support of the student.
- Although most Dickinson aid is based on demonstrated financial need, there are renewable [merit scholarships](#), not based on need, offered to incoming first year students. Merit scholarships are considered "tuition" awards. These merit awards are offered only to prospective students at the time of admission; upper-class students who were not awarded merit scholarships are not eligible to receive merit scholarships in future years. Several academic departments award prizes to upper-class students, but awards are nominal, and their purpose is to recognize outstanding performance within the discipline.
- Eligibility for need-based aid is determined each year. Incoming first year students should file the appropriate forms according to the deadlines established for their admission program (see deadline information in Section [5. What Are The Deadlines?](#)). Upper-class students should apply no later than May 1 (or earlier if required for a state grant or scholarship). Late applicants are considered for Dickinson Grant assistance on a funds-available basis.
- Estimated state or federal grants are frequently included in incoming students' financial aid offers. If these grants do not materialize due to program changes, the Dickinson Grant will be increased to make up the shortfall. Conversely, if the federal or state grant amount is higher than the initial estimated amount, the Dickinson Grant will decrease accordingly. **Dickinson will not replace state or federal grants lost due to inaccurate application data or failure to complete the application process within deadlines.**
- Dickinson Grant and scholarship funds are available only to full-time, matriculated students working on their first bachelor's degree. Some federal and state programs may be available for part-time students and those working on a second degree.
- To be considered independent for federal and state purposes for the 2025-2026 academic year, you must meet the [Federal definition](#) of an independent student.

- Dickinson College will review a student's independent status for institutional aid purposes on a case-by-case basis. For Dickinson Grant purposes, students who turn 24, marry, or have children after their initial acceptance as dependent students will continue to be treated as dependent on the resources of their parents.
- In addition to financial aid programs for students, there are several financing options available to parents. Information on the Nelnet Campus Commerce monthly payment plan, parent loans, and student private loans is available on the [college's website](#).
- Applicants admitted as First Year students are eligible to receive Dickinson Grant or scholarship aid for up to eight semesters of attendance. The eight-semester limit includes any enrolled semesters spent off-campus in non-Dickinson programs, as well as enrolled semesters in which a student does not receive or apply for financial assistance. Transfer students are limited to the number of semesters needed to complete their degrees as determined at the time of enrollment. For example, a student admitted as a first semester sophomore would be eligible to receive aid for six semesters of attendance.
- Although eligibility is usually based on family information, the student is the aid recipient. The Office of Financial Aid normally directs correspondence to the student rather than to the parents. Our primary means of contact is through Dickinson College email addresses. It is vital that the student understands the financial aid process and takes an active role with their annual application. (See information regarding [FERPA](#), the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, available on the Dickinson College webpage in the Registrar's Office section.) Students may enable [Proxy Access](#) for other individuals, such as their parents, by providing a valid email address for the designated proxy. Proxy Access allows Dickinson students to grant online access to their student financial information using Banner Self-Service.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is Financial Aid?

Financial aid is assistance provided in the form of grants and scholarships (gift money which need not be repaid), federal or private educational loans (which must be repaid), and work opportunities (money that must be earned). Most financial aid is provided in the form of an offer of both gift aid and self-help (work study and/or loan). Most of the financial aid at Dickinson is provided to students who demonstrate financial need through the financial aid application process.

2. How Do I Apply?

Applications can be accessed through the Dickinson College Financial Aid Website under [How to Apply](#).

Prospective Students

U.S. citizens or permanent residents who wish to apply for **federal financial aid only**, including the [Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan](#), need only complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). These applicants will not be considered for need-based Dickinson Grant assistance. New students wishing to apply for Dickinson Grant assistance and federal/state aid should complete BOTH the [CSS Profile](#) and the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) online applications. To ensure accuracy, Dickinson families will be prompted to utilize the Financial Aid Direct Data Exchange (FA-DDX). Some students may be required to complete additional forms. Students whose parents are divorced, separated, or were never married are asked to have the noncustodial parent complete a [Noncustodial Parent CSS Profile](#) as part of the CSS Profile application process. Families are also requested to send signed copies of parent and student federal tax returns along with

all supplemental schedules and W2 forms to the College Board's [IDOC Service](#). Do not email personal identifying information, such as tax returns or W2 forms to Dickinson. In most cases, Dickinson Grant assistance will be awarded only after these applications and requested documentation have been received, if eligible. The deadline for prospective students to submit their aid application is the same deadline as their admissions application.

We will ask enrolling first year students who receive need-based grants to complete the General Application through Dickinson's [Academic Works](#) during the summer preceding their arrival. An email with detailed instructions will be sent to students Dickinson email address during the summer prior to the start of the fall term.

Returning Students

Current students who applied for federal aid the previous year will receive a notice from the Department of Education reminding them to complete their FAFSA after October 1. To ensure accuracy, Dickinson families will utilize the FA-DDX on the FAFSA.

All upper-class grant recipients must complete the General Financial Aid Application, available through Dickinson's Academic Works which can be accessed [here](#). Since Dickinson Grants are funded in part through endowed scholarship monies, this form helps the Office of Financial Aid select endowed scholarship recipients. The deadline for returning students to submit their renewal materials is May 1.

Returning students who have experienced changes in family circumstances should complete the [CSS Profile](#) application in addition to the FAFSA. Examples of circumstances that may warrant a reassessment of a student's Dickinson Grant eligibility could include a job loss, a sibling entering and/or graduating from college, or other significant events that have had financial repercussions. In addition to the CSS Profile and FAFSA, students requesting additional grant consideration must submit signed copies of both parent and student tax returns and W2 forms to the College Board's [IDOC Service](#). Do not email personal identifying information, such as tax returns or W2 forms to Dickinson. Unless the requirement had been previously waived, the Noncustodial Parent CSS Profile also must be completed if the student's parents are divorced, separated, or were never married.

FAFSA information applicable to prospective and returning students

The online [FAFSA](#) may be signed, consented to, and acknowledged electronically using a studentaid.gov account. You can create an account or log in to an existing account [here](#). Students and parents must have separate Studentaid.gov accounts. Please note that unless the student is independent per federal guidelines, both student and parents are required to "sign, consent and acknowledge" the FAFSA for it to be considered complete. The same Studentaid.gov accounts can be used each year the FAFSA is filed.

When utilizing the FA-DDX, contributors' tax return information will be encrypted and hidden from view on the FAFSA application, as well as on the online FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS) and the FAFSA webpage. This is to address privacy and security concerns. Applicants will also be informed that they have successfully transferred their tax return information, and the completed FAFSA will be sent to any school listed.

The student will receive a ([FSS](#)) from the federal processor after completing the FAFSA. This form provides an opportunity for the student to correct any errors on the original application. If the initial FAFSA was completed using estimated tax return data, the FAFSA should be updated once tax returns have been filed. The information on the FAFSA is sent to the college electronically if the student has listed Dickinson's Federal School Code (003253) on the application.

All applicants should apply for grant aid from their home state, although not all states award grant aid to students attending college in Pennsylvania. While some states have developed a separate state grant application, most use information from the FAFSA. For the 2025-2026 award year the following states may help their residents attending college in Pennsylvania: Delaware, Massachusetts, Ohio, Vermont, and West Virginia.

International Students

Dickinson's financial aid is limited and is offered to the most competitive of our international applicants. All international students must complete the Certification of Finances (COF) form, available to students through their student portal, whether applying for financial aid or not. International financial aid applicants should complete the College Board's [CSS Profile](#).

Most international students requesting financial aid will receive a financial aid offer that includes grant or scholarship monies, loans, and work study. International students are responsible for their travel both to and from the United States, and within the United States; personal expenditures, including the international student health insurance; and will be responsible for the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVIS) fee. International aid applicants do not need to reapply for financial aid every year since the financial aid offer is based on the original COF. If they wish to request additional assistance due to a change in their family's economic circumstances, they should contact the Director of Financial Aid to learn about the requirements for this process. International students who indicated "no need" for financial aid on the initial application are rarely granted assistance in subsequent years, unless there is a significant documentable change in their family's financial situation.

3. Is Financial Aid Information Kept Confidential?

Family financial information is held in the strictest confidence, and information about the amount of financial aid is not released outside the College administration without the approval of the student and/or family, unless required by federal law or subpoenaed by a court of law.

If fraud is suspected on an application for federal assistance, the college is required to report this situation to the U.S. Inspector General's Office. Information from the student's file will be released to authorities pursuing an investigation.

4. Is the Accuracy of the Information Verified?

The Department of Education subjects each application for federal financial aid to a series of tests designed to identify missing, inconsistent, or illogical responses. If the application fails to pass these edits, the application is selected for verification. Some applications are selected randomly. It is not unusual for an applicant's FAFSA to be selected for verification. Students will be notified that they have been selected by the federal government after submitting their FAFSA. They will also be notified of verification requirements by our office.

When selected, the Office of Financial Aid must check the accuracy of certain data elements before federal financial aid can be finalized. Students may be asked to submit any (but not all) of the following:

- [Verification Statement – Dependent Student](#)
- [Verification Statement – Independent Student](#)
- Signed copy of federal income tax return, IRS Tax Return Transcript and/or use of Future Act Direct Data Exchange (FA-DDX)
- [Student Non-filer Statement](#)
-

- [Parent Non-filer Statement](#)
- Foreign Tax Returns
- Amended Tax Returns
- Form 4868, Application for Automatic Extension of Time to File U.S. Individual Income Tax Return
- Verification of Identity
- Other documents requested by the Office of Financial Aid to resolve conflicting information

Dickinson will also reconcile income information using parent and student federal tax returns, schedules, and W2 forms. Families may forward these documents via fax, mail, or electronically through the [Secure Upload Form](#). Do not email documents with personal identifying information to the Office of Financial Aid.

Applicants and current students whose applications were selected for verification ordinarily must provide all requested information before their financial aid application can be processed. If verification shows that the information reported on the application is incorrect, we will recalculate eligibility for aid based upon accurate information. As a result, a student's Dickinson Grant and/or other forms of federal aid may be reduced or eliminated. Students will receive a new financial aid offer if changes are made to their financial aid package due to verification. Students who do not provide requested documentation by the 60th day of enrollment may lose Federal Work-Study eligibility. Eligibility may be reinstated if documents are submitted later, if funds are available. Federal Pell Grants, Federal Direct Loans, and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants cannot be processed or credited until the verification process has been completed. Students who do not provide the necessary verification documents also may lose Dickinson Grant assistance. For those working through the Verification process, aid packages will be processed, but funds will not disburse, until verification is completed.

When an applicant has been selected for verification and the applicant or the parents have received an extension from the IRS, the applicant's aid may be processed. To do this, the family should send a copy of Form 4868, Application for Automatic Extension of Time to File U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, and W-2 forms. If one or both parents are self-employed, a signed statement with the amount of their adjusted gross income should be provided. Once the tax return has been submitted, the application will be re-verified. A student's eligibility for aid may change once the application has been re-verified.

When an applicant (or parent of a dependent applicant) has amended his/her tax return, a signed copy of the original return or use of the FUTURE Act Direct Data Exchange (FA-DDX) and a signed copy of the amended return (1040X) will be requested to complete the verification process.

If it is determined that a student purposely provided false or misleading information in an effort to receive federal financial aid, the student may be fined, be sentenced to jail, or both. The student and the parent(s) may also be referred to the U.S. Department of Education Office of Inspector General.

5. What are the Deadlines?

The CSS Profile (School Code 2186) and FAFSA (School Code 003253) should be submitted by the dates listed below:

Incoming First Year/Transfer students:

CSS Profile and FAFSA

<u>Admission</u>	<u>Program Financial Aid Deadline</u>
Early Decision I	November 15
Early Decision II	January 15
Regular Decision	January 15
Transfer	April 1 or November 1
Community College Partnership	March 1 or October 1
Spring Start	October 6

Current Students: May 1 (FAFSA, General Application, and the CSS Profile, if applicable)

First year and transfer students are notified of their financial aid offer at the time of acceptance for admission or shortly thereafter, provided that the aid application is on time and complete. Upper-class financial aid applicants receive their financial aid packages in late June, prior to the mailing of the fall billing statement in early July.

6. How is Eligibility for Aid Determined?

A student must meet federal criteria to be eligible for federal financial aid. The criteria for individual federal aid programs are outlined in a separate publication, [Guide to Student Federal Aid](#). Eligibility for federal aid is determined according to the information provided on the FAFSA using a formula called Federal Methodology, which computes a Student Aid Index (SAI) based on student and parent income, assets, and other factors. The Cost of Attendance (COA) minus the Student Aid Index (SAI) equals the federal eligibility (“financial need”).

The Cost of Attendance is intended to give you an **estimate** of the total costs associated with attending Dickinson for the year. The COA includes both direct costs (tuition, fees, housing and food plan), and indirect costs (estimates for books, supplies, personal and travel expenses). Students will be billed for direct costs; indirect costs do not appear on the bill. Total aid (including loans and work study) cannot exceed the total [Cost of Attendance](#).

Dickinson uses a separate Institutional Methodology, based on the CSS PROFILE, to determine eligibility for Dickinson Grant funds. Additional factors beyond the data items requested on the FAFSA are considered. These include (but are not limited to) home equity, contribution from the noncustodial parent, and, in the case of a family with more than one child in college, an evaluation of the actual costs involved in supporting the other student(s). Parents in college and siblings in graduate school are not counted as family members in college.

Dickinson expects each financial aid recipient to work during the summer and contribute a minimum of \$2,000 toward college costs. Students are expected to use a portion of their assets each year for educational expenses. Some students receive educational benefits from governmental agencies such as the Veterans' Administration and State Bureaus of Vocational Rehabilitation or from parents' employers in the form of tuition remission or tuition assistance. Such benefits will be taken into consideration when determining the financial aid offer.

The financial aid offer will list all the financial aid programs for which the student is eligible. The amount of financial aid that the student receives from these programs depends on the student's calculated need. The amount of merit scholarship aid may also be influenced by academic achievement.

Students' financial need is recalculated for each year of attendance; as a result, amounts of need-based aid offered may vary as need changes. The College attempts to maintain approximately the same amount of Dickinson Grant funds from year to year unless financial need changes significantly. The student should submit a CSS Profile application if additional assistance is requested as a result of a change in family circumstances. See also sections [9. Does The Amount Of Aid Ever Change?](#) and [10. What Are The Aid Limitations?](#) for more information.

7. What Types of Assistance are Available?

GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, and AWARDS are gifts which do not have to be repaid. Gift aid comes from several sources: federal and state governments, colleges, and private organizations. In most cases, grants are based on financial need while scholarships and awards are based on academic achievement or other talents. Dickinson is an NCAA Division III school; we cannot award scholarship assistance based on athletic performance, talent, or promise.

Federal Pell Grant is the largest federal gift aid program, available only to families of relatively modest means. The amount of the grant varies according to both need and annual appropriation levels, the maximum Pell Grant for 2025-2026 is \$7,395. The amount of the award is based on data provided on the FAFSA.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG) are disbursed directly by the college to students with the highest calculated need. FSEOG funds are offered only to Federal Pell Grant recipients. Students with no remaining federal need-based aid eligibility may not be eligible for the FSEOG.

State Grants/Scholarships may be available to Dickinson students from Delaware, Massachusetts, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and West Virginia. Students must be certain to file the FAFSA and the appropriate state grant application and meet their home [state's deadline](#).

Outside Scholarships are available from national or local organizations. The best source of information about local scholarships is the local high school guidance office or public library. For national scholarships, customized database searches may be conducted free of charge at [Fastweb](#) or at [College Board](#) (for example). Opportunities for outside scholarships are listed on the [Financial Aid website](#). Students are cautioned to be wise consumers when approached by scholarship search companies that charge a fee.

Dickinson College Grant Programs, including grants and endowed scholarships, are the single largest source of assistance to Dickinson students. While some students receive awards from a variety of restricted endowed funds or annual gifts to the college, most endowed scholarships go toward supporting an existing Dickinson Grant. Although grants do not have to be repaid, we hope that alumni who have benefited from Dickinson Grants will contribute to the College after graduation and help make attendance possible for future generations of Dickinsonians. The Donald B. and Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation Scholarship, established in 2009, takes this philosophy one step further by requiring recipients of these scholarships to affirm that they will endeavor to make their own contributions to this fund after they have repaid their student loans. We offer Stabler Foundation Scholarships to need-based grant recipients participating in summer, mosaic, and globally integrated study abroad programs.

Merit Scholarships are conferred upon a limited number of the most highly qualified incoming [first year students](#) and [transfer students](#), without regard to financial need. Eligibility for these merit-based tuition scholarships is determined by the Admissions committee based upon the admission application. Awards for first-year students are renewable for three additional years, for a total of eight (8) semesters. Awards for transfer students are limited to the number of semesters needed to complete their degrees as determined at the time of enrollment. Awarded merit scholarships will remain the same monetary value throughout a student's enrollment period. Merit scholarships are not re-evaluated based on a student's academic performance.

Award amounts will not change during the standard fall or spring term on campus or in a Dickinson study abroad program unless 1) grant assistance from all sources exceeds the Cost of Attendance, 2) the student registers for less than a full-time course load, or 3) the student fails to maintain a 2.0 cumulative average.

Should the cumulative GPA fall below 2.0, students are given at least one semester on probation to improve their academic performance; one semester under a 2.0 will not result in loss of the scholarship. Students placed on scholarship probation must either:

1. Raise the cumulative GPA above 2.0 to be taken off probation;
2. Achieve at least a full-time semester GPA of 2.0 and continue probation for another semester to be given additional time to raise the cumulative average above 2.0.

It is strongly recommended that students consult with their academic advisor or college dean regarding strategies to enhance their performance during the probation semester.

Please note that merit scholarships, and any other scholarships not awarded based on financial need, are considered tuition scholarships. Since these are tuition scholarships, students receiving other assistance that fully covers tuition charges (Reserve Officers' Training Corps [ROTC], tuition remission) will lose eligibility for the merit scholarship. **All tuition awards and tuition scholarships combined cannot exceed Dickinson's annual tuition charge.**

Phi Theta Kappa Scholarships are offered to [Community College Partnership](#) students who are members of [Phi Theta Kappa](#). Students must maintain a cumulative 2.0 GPA at Dickinson in order to renew this scholarship. The Transfer Admissions Committee selects recipients for this scholarship based upon the transfer admission applications. Awards are limited to four semesters of full-time enrollment.

Tuition Exchange Scholarships are awarded to students whose parents work for other participating academic institutions. The scholarships are competitive; not all eligible students are awarded a scholarship. The exporting institution must agree that the employee's child is eligible to receive the award. Continued eligibility is dependent on the student maintaining satisfactory academic progress and the parent's continued eligibility for the benefit. Students receiving Tuition Exchange scholarships may not receive funds from any other merit award program from Dickinson. For 2025-26, the scholarship is valued at \$43,000. Eligibility is limited to eight semesters of full-time study at Dickinson or at a Dickinson-sponsored program.

Academic Prizes, averaging \$200, are awarded by individual academic departments to recognize outstanding performance within their discipline. These awards will be added to a student's financial aid offer as other financial assistance (OFA); financial need is not a selection criterion for these awards.

Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) Scholarships are awarded by the US Department of Defense to students based on academic discipline, grade-point average, SAT scores, leadership potential, and physical fitness. Recipients of ROTC scholarships must commit to participation in the [Army ROTC](#) program at Dickinson, and

to service as an officer in the US Army following graduation. The scholarship provides tuition, a monthly subsistence allowance during the school year, and an allowance each semester for books and supplies. ROTC Scholarship recipients also receive an additional grant of \$10,000 from Dickinson College. Since federal regulations and Pennsylvania State Grant regulations exclude the ROTC Scholarship, book allowance, and monthly stipend from the need analysis formula, ROTC candidates may be eligible for federal aid and Pennsylvania students may be eligible for the state grant. In some cases, the amount of aid an ROTC cadet receives may exceed our cost of attendance.

The book allowance and monthly subsistence allowance are not deducted from the Dickinson College billing statement (prepared by the [Office of Student Accounts](#)) since these awards are paid directly to the student. As a result, a student may owe money to the college despite receipt of financial assistance equal to the total cost of attendance (direct charges, plus the standard financial aid allowance for books and living expenses).

Dickinson Grant assistance is not available to ROTC students studying abroad in a non-Dickinson Program. (See Section [12 Are Off-Campus Programs Covered?](#)) Interested students should contact Dickinson College's ROTC Office (717-245-1221) for additional information about this program.

Veteran's Affairs (VA) Educational Benefits will be taken into consideration when determining institutional financial aid at Dickinson College. These include benefits through the [Post 9/11 GI Bill® and Chapter 35 Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance \(DEA\) program](#). In cases where the total financial aid exceeds the cost of attendance (COA) or demonstrated financial need, any need-based Dickinson Grant assistance may be reduced. Dickinson College merit scholarships are tuition specific, and the VA requires us to reduce the reported tuition and fees to the VA by this amount. Since federal regulations exclude veteran's benefits as a resource when determining eligibility for federal aid, students may retain eligibility for federal loans and work-study even if their total aid exceeds our COA.

The book stipend and monthly housing allowance for all VA benefits are not deducted from the Dickinson College billing statement (prepared by the [Office of Student Accounts](#), since these awards are paid directly to the student. As a result, a student may owe money to the college despite receipt of financial assistance equal to the total cost of attendance. Since these are not included on your Dickinson College semester bill, students should be prepared to pay for housing and food before receiving their monthly housing allowance.

"GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government Web site at <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>."

Yellow Ribbon is a provision of the [Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008](#). Yellow Ribbon permits qualified veterans (or dependents to whom the benefits have been assigned) to receive an education benefit more than the standard \$29,920.95 maximum for 2025-2026. As a participating institution, Dickinson College meets 50% of the remaining tuition and fee expenses through grant and/or scholarship and the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) contributes the other 50%.

LOANS are funds available to students which must be repaid, with interest, after graduation. These are available from federal, private, and institutional sources. Most student loans begin repayment six months after graduation, or after a student drops below half-time enrollment.

Federal Direct Subsidized Loans are made directly to the student by the U.S. Department of Education. Since eligibility for a Direct Loan is based on federal need analysis, all students wishing to apply for this loan must complete the FAFSA. The interest on Federal Direct Subsidized Loans is paid by the federal government while

the borrower is in school and during approved deferment periods, such as the six-month grace period after graduation. Maximum loan amounts vary according to grade level: \$3,500 for first year students, \$4,500 for sophomores and \$5,500 for juniors and seniors. The maximum subsidized amount an undergraduate student can borrow in total is \$23,000. Since an origination fee is deducted from the loan proceeds, the amount received is somewhat less than the amount borrowed. The origination fee of 1.057% is in effect until October 1, 2025.

Loans are disbursed in two installments, half for the fall semester and half for the spring semester. Repayment begins six months after the borrower ceases at least half-time enrollment. Loan repayment may be deferred if the borrower is in school, unemployed, or suffering economic hardship. The interest rate for federal direct loans disbursed between 7/1/2025 and 6/30/2026 is 6.39%

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans ensure that all eligible students, regardless of calculated need, will be able to obtain a student loan. The terms for this loan, interest rate, and origination fee are the same as for the Federal Direct Subsidized Loan (see above), except that interest accrues on the outstanding balance from the time it is disbursed until the loan is paid in full. The student may pay the interest as it accrues (recommended), or the interest will capitalize and be added to the principal of the loan upon repayment. The maximum total amount a dependent undergraduate can borrow is \$31,000, of which \$23,000 may be subsidized.

SCHOOL YEAR	YEARLY SUBSIDIZED MAXIMUM	YEARLY UNSUBSIDIZED MAXIMUM	YEARLY UNSUBSIDIZED MAXIMUM IF NOT ELIGIBLE FOR SUBSIDIZED LOAN
FIRST YEAR	\$3,500	\$2,000	\$5,500
SECOND YEAR	\$4,500	\$2,000	\$6,500
THIRD YEAR	\$5,500	\$2,000	\$7,500
FOURTH YEAR	\$5,500	\$2,000	\$7,500

Additional Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan funds are available to students who are independent of their parents (according to Federal criteria) or whose parent(s) are denied eligibility for the Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan. The maximum annual amount available is \$4,000 for first year students and sophomores and \$5,000 for juniors and seniors. Interest rates, origination fee, and loan terms are the same as the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan. The maximum total amount of Federal Direct Loans qualifying students may borrow is \$57,500.

Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan allows parents to finance part or all of a student's educational costs. Students must file a FAFSA before a Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan can be processed. Annual borrowing is limited only by the COA minus other financial aid, although parents with an [adverse credit rating](#) may be denied eligibility. An origination fee is deducted from the loan proceeds, and repayment begins within 30-60 days of loan disbursement. The interest rate for 2025-2026 is 8.94%. The origination fee of 4.228% is in effect until October 1, 2025.

Interest rates for Federal Direct Loans, including the Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan: Though Federal Direct Loans have a fixed interest rate for the life of the loan, the rate for new loans changes each academic year. Students and parents who take advantage of these loans for several years likely will have a different, fixed interest rate for each year. The interest rate will remain the same on each loan until the loan is paid off or consolidated. The interest rate for new loans is determined each year based on the 10-year Treasury bill as of May each year plus an add-on of 2.05% for the Direct Loan and 4.60% for the Federal Direct Parent PLUS

loan. For 2025-2026, the interest rate on Federal Direct Loans for undergraduates (subsidized and unsubsidized) is 6.39%; the Federal Direct Parent PLUS loan interest rate is 8.94%.

Disputes Regarding Federal Loans: Any student who is unable to resolve a dispute concerning a federal student loan, despite resolution attempts, may contact the [U.S. Department of Education's Student Loan Ombudsman](#) at 1-800-433-3243.

Private Educational Loans are non-federal loans available to students with a credit-worthy co-signer that can be processed for a maximum amount equal to the Cost of Attendance (as determined for financial aid eligibility and listed on student financial aid offer) minus other financial aid. They may also be called "alternative loans."

Dickinson College discourages the use of [private educational loans](#) unless absolutely necessary. These loans generally have variable interest rates (though higher fixed interest rates may be available), which can increase significantly over the life of a loan, and loan balances that cannot be consolidated with federal loans, potentially increasing repayment to unaffordable levels. We recommend that students discuss loan options with their financial aid counselor to make certain that a private educational loan is the best available option.

Benefits of Federal versus Private Educational Student Loans. The Federal Direct Loan program is ideal because no collateral is required to borrow these loans. The U.S. government assures repayment of the loan if the student borrower dies or becomes permanently disabled. Federal Direct Loans originate in the student's name, and the student is legally responsible for repayment. For more information on the differences between federal and private loans visit the Department of Education [website](#).

The Abe and Cora Hurwitz Student Loan was established by the estate of Cora Rabinowitz Hurwitz in honor of her commitment to education and the memory of her husband Abe, Dickinson Class of 1934. This low-interest loan is offered to students demonstrating financial need. The interest rate for 2025-2026 is fixed at 5.0% and has a ten-year repayment period. Until repayment begins, payments are not due, and interest does not accrue. Repayment begins six months after the student withdraws or graduates from Dickinson College.

EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS offer students opportunities to work on campus and in the community. [Work Study opportunities](#) are available to students to help offset incidental college costs. Earnings are not deducted from the Student Accounts billing statement; instead, money earned is paid directly to the student every two weeks. Most student employees are paid at a rate slightly higher than the national minimum wage. There are few positions that are paid at a higher rate due to job responsibilities. All student employees are subject to the normal requirements of employment. Failure to meet job requirements may result in the loss of the position and of that financial resource.

The Federal Work-Study (FWS) Program provides a campus employment opportunity to eligible students. FWS earnings may be used only for education-related expenses. The work opportunity averages \$2,500 and is earned by working 10-12 hours per week. Entering first-year students who are awarded FWS receive employment information in June. First-year students work in Dining Services. First-year students will receive additional information in the summer and attend a Dining Services employment meeting during Orientation. Upper-class students locate their own jobs by applying directly to departments or offices using the Career Center's online search service, Handshake, available through the Gateway. A work study award does not guarantee employment, and being ineligible for FWS does not prevent a student from obtaining employment.

Federal guidelines require colleges to dedicate a certain number of work-study jobs to community service, defined as '...services that are designed to improve the quality of life for community residents, particularly low-income individuals, or to solve particular problems related to their needs.' Dickinson has partnered with several

nonprofit organizations in the Carlisle area to provide community service work study options. More information is available from the [Center For Civic Learning & Action](#).

Institutionally funded employment may be available to students who are not eligible for Federal Work-Study. With the exception of Dining Services, these positions usually require specialized skills.

Tuition Payment Plan: The [Nelnet Campus Commerce](#) monthly payment plan allows you to spread out the semester balance over five, four, or three months, for both fall and spring semesters. There is a small fee of \$50.00 per semester enrollment. For further information on important plan enrollment dates, please [Nelnet Campus Commerce](#).

8. How is Financial Aid Credited to the Student's Account?

Most financial aid is credited once a semester, directly to the student's college account, including funds received from college grants and scholarships, Federal Direct Loans, Federal SEOG, Federal Pell Grants, and state grants. Federal Direct Loans are credited after the student completes entrance counseling and signs a Master Promissory Note. Federal funds cannot be credited to the student's account earlier than ten days before the beginning of the semester. All required verification must be completed before funds can be disbursed.

According to Dickinson's policy, funds from all the Federal Title IV financial aid programs (Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, Federal Direct Loans, including the Parent PLUS loan) are the first credits applied against a student's charges, regardless of the order in which funds are received. If a credit balance is created by these awards once they are applied against charges for tuition, fees, housing and food, the college is required to refund the balance to the student and/or parent.

State and federal grant amounts are estimated on award offers for students; actual grant amounts are credited only after official notification is received from the awarding agency and all required forms have been submitted to the Office of Financial Aid. Any necessary adjustment to the awarded amount will occur at that time. See Section [9. Does The Amount Of Aid Ever Change?](#)

It is important to note that funds from outside sources (such as private educational loans or outside scholarships) do not appear as a credit on a student's account until the endorsed check or electronic funds transfer (EFT) has been received by the Office of Student Accounts.

Federal Work-Study and Institutional Work-Study (International Students) earnings do not appear as a credit on a student's account. Students are paid every two weeks for the hours worked during that period and may use the money as they choose to meet educational costs.

LATE FEES: Accounts not settled by the due date are subject to a late payment fee of \$50 and a 1.5 % monthly interest charge on the unpaid balance.

9. Does the Amount of Aid Ever Change?

The Office of Financial Aid may reduce or eliminate financial aid offers if the student receives additional assistance from an outside source. Financial aid offers also may be reduced if the family financial information reported on the application for financial aid is inaccurate. These changes are made to protect the equity of awarded packages and to conform to federal and/or state regulations. Application errors should be corrected at once to prevent unnecessary frustration and inconvenience.

A few families may need to use estimated data when filing financial aid applications. Estimates should be as accurate as possible. Any aid offered based on estimated data will be considered tentative until the reconciliation process is completed and financial documentation has been received.

In future years, if there are **no** significant changes in financial circumstances (i.e. increase in income) or family circumstances (i.e. the number of siblings pursuing an undergraduate degree decreases), need-based aid from Dickinson should remain relatively constant. However, if income and/or assets increase, and/or the number of siblings enrolled in an undergraduate program decrease, need-based aid from Dickinson may be significantly reduced.

Estimated Federal and State Grants. Dickinson Grants may be revised if initial estimates of federal or state aid prove to be incorrect. If the federal or state grant is higher than estimated and need has been fully met, the Dickinson Grant will be reduced so that the total amount of gift aid remains the same as in the original package. If the federal or state grant is lower than the estimate through no fault of the applicant, the Dickinson Grant may be increased. If the student did not apply, or if the application was late or had inaccurate data, the lost or reduced award will not be made up with college funds. Dickinson Grant funds will not be added to compensate for lost or reduced outside aid if a Dickinson Grant was not a part of the original financial aid offer.

Outside Scholarships, such as those received from the PTA or Elks Club must be reported to the Office of Financial Aid. Outside scholarship awards, when added to other financial aid awards received, will first fill any unmet need. Once need has been met, an adjustment will be made to the self-help portion of the package. For example, receipt of an outside scholarship of \$500 would result in a reduction of the recommended loan or work-study by \$500 if the federally calculated need already has been fully met. **Dickinson Grants and scholarships will not be affected by receipt of an outside scholarship unless the student's gift aid exceeds Cost of Attendance.** It is especially important that students receiving outside awards notify the Office of Financial Aid as early as possible so that necessary adjustments can be made before loans are processed.

Low-Interest or Interest-Free Student Loans, such as those from foundations, community organizations, etc. must be reported to the Office of Financial Aid. These loans, when added to other financial aid awards received, will first fill any unmet need. Once need has been met, an adjustment will be made to the self-help portion of the package. Colleges and universities must take these loans into account if they have been approved because of the student's enrollment in postsecondary education. **Dickinson Grants and scholarships will not be affected by receipt of an outside scholarship unless the student's gift aid exceeds Cost of Attendance.** If you have any doubt about whether a loan should be reported to the Office of Financial Aid, please share your loan approval letter and/or Promissory Note with the Office of Financial Aid.

Tuition Assistance or Remission provided by a parent's employer is considered a form of financial aid. It does not reduce the Student Aid Index but is treated as a resource which must be included in the financial aid offer. Eligibility for need-based aid is calculated based on the remaining unmet need. Students receiving full tuition assistance or remission are not eligible for Dickinson Grant assistance. **All tuition awards and tuition scholarships combined cannot exceed Dickinson's annual tuition charge.**

Note: Tuition Exchange (TE) awards are not treated as outside scholarships because the college funds these awards. Students who received merit in their initial financial aid offer will see the merit removed if selected for TE. TE provides a monetary amount greater than merit scholarships. All tuition awards and tuition scholarships combined cannot exceed Dickinson's annual tuition charge.

Major Changes in Financial Circumstances. Families experiencing significant reductions in income should contact the Office of Financial Aid for guidance. Additional federal, state and/or institutional funding may be available

to help students whose families have experienced death, disability, unemployment, or similar circumstances. A Reduced Income Form, [CSS Profile](#), signed federal tax returns and/or other documentation will be required to document the changed situation.

10. What are the Aid Limitations?

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Students are expected to complete enough courses to move to a new grade level each year. Normally, students complete a B.A. or B.S. degree in four academic years by taking four courses per semester. Matriculated students must complete at least 32 courses for graduation. First year students become sophomores after completing seven courses fulfilling graduation requirements. Sophomores become juniors after 15 courses, and juniors achieve senior status after 23 courses. Details concerning college policies on incomplete courses, withdrawals, and other academic matters can be found in the [College Bulletin](#).

[SAP](#) is measured at the end of each academic year through three components: quantitative measure, qualitative measure, and maximum time frame. For quantitative measurement, SAP will be measured by dividing the number of courses successfully completed by the number of courses attempted. Attempted courses include all withdrawals, incompletes, and failures. Students must successfully complete 60% of all attempted courses.

Qualitative measurement, students also must meet a minimum grade-point average for each level of study to remain in good standing at Dickinson. The minimum grade-point average for a first-year student to be in good academic standing at the end of the academic year is 1.75. Sophomores must achieve a minimum of 2.0 for the year or a cumulative grade-point average of 2.0. Juniors and seniors must earn a cumulative grade-point average of at least 2.0 by the end of the academic year to remain in good standing and to graduate.

Maximum Time Frame measurement is the required length of time it will take a student to complete a degree program based on the appropriate enrollment status. Federal regulations allow a student to be eligible to receive federal aid up to 150% of the time that it would normally take to complete a degree. 150% of the course credits hours that it would normally take to complete a Baccalaureate Degree is 48 credit hours ($32 \times 150\% = 48$.) For a student seeking a degree, the student may remain eligible through 48 course credit hours attempted during enrollment.

Any variations to these standards must be approved by the [Committee on Academic Programs and Standards](#) which, in some cases, will allow students to remain at Dickinson for a period of academic probation. Students on academic probation are not considered to be making academic progress under institutional policies and are ineligible to receive financial aid. See the [College Bulletin](#) for additional details.

A student who does not progress to the next grade level, or does not remain in good academic standing, may lose eligibility for institutional, federal, and state aid programs. Eligibility will be reinstated once satisfactory academic progress is regained. In the interim, students can file a SAP appeal to be considered for federal financial aid as long as they can document extenuating circumstances and complete the [Dickinson College SAP Appeal Form](#). The College's Financial Aid Appeal Committee will make a determination upon which a student will be notified of the determination, which is final. If an appeal is denied, the Office of Financial Aid may be able to suggest alternative financing options which would enable the student to continue enrollment.

Maximum Financial Aid Eligibility. Dickinson students entering as first semester, first-year students are eligible to receive Dickinson Grant assistance for up to eight semesters of attendance. The eight-semester limit includes any enrolled semesters spent off-campus in non-Dickinson programs, as well as enrolled semesters in which a student does not receive or apply for financial assistance. Transfer students are limited to the number of

semesters initially determined to be needed to complete their course of study. For example, a student entering as a first semester sophomore would be eligible for institutional assistance for up to six semesters of attendance.

Students requesting variance from this policy must submit an appeal in writing to the financial aid committee, petitioning for an additional semester of assistance.

Dickinson Grant assistance is not available for summer study other than as outlined in Section [13. Is Summer Session Attendance Covered?](#)

Federal aid may be available to students who have exceeded their maximum number of semesters for institutional aid. A complete discussion of maximum aid eligibility in the federal financial aid programs can be found in the [Guide to Student Federal Aid](#). Students may receive federal financial aid at Dickinson College for an absolute maximum of six years of full-time study (48 attempted courses for part-time students).

Other Limitations. On-time applications are given priority for institutional funds. Students who submit applications or other required supporting documents after the established deadlines may find that the remaining funding is inadequate for their needs. See Section [5. What are the Deadlines?](#) for details. Dickinson Grant assistance is provided to full-time, degree-seeking candidates only. Some federal and state programs are available to part-time, matriculated students. Continuing Education students are not eligible for financial aid. These students may be eligible to borrow money through the Federal Direct Loan program. Students with questions about financial aid eligibility are encouraged to discuss their situation with their financial aid counselor.

11. Is the Money I Receive for Financial Aid Taxed?

U.S. Citizens. Income earned from Federal Work-Study or institutional employment is subject to federal and state income taxes, as with any other earnings. Money received from grants and scholarships may be subject to Federal income taxation if grants and scholarships from all sources exceed the cost of tuition, fees, books, and required equipment and supplies. Money received from loans is not taxable. For more detailed information, contact the [Internal Revenue Service](#) or your personal tax advisor.

International Students. Grant and scholarship aid more than tuition may be subject to U.S. taxation unless the student's home country has a formal tax agreement with the U.S. government. For more information, please contact the [Center for Global Study and Engagement](#).

12. Are Off-Campus Programs Covered?

Students who attend any of the academic year programs administered by Dickinson College (Dickinson and Dickinson Partner Programs), or the Central Pennsylvania Consortium exchange program, are eligible to be considered for all forms of financial aid except for employment programs. Information on costs for these programs can be found on the Center for Global Study and Engagement [website](#).

Students enrolled in non-Dickinson programs are not eligible to receive Dickinson Grant, Scholarship, Tuition Exchange, or Loan assistance nor can Dickinson funds be used to pay the Non-Dickinson Program Study Abroad Fee. They may be eligible for assistance from some federal (Pell Grant, Direct Loan) and state programs. A detailed description of the steps necessary to receive this aid is available from the Office of Financial Aid or on the [Dickinson Financial Aid web site](#). Students may arrange for the program charges to be billed through Dickinson's [Office of Student Accounts](#) and must complete an Off-Campus Financial Aid Information [Form](#) so that Dickinson's Office of Financial Aid can execute a Consortium Agreement with the

host institution. Receipt of a completed Consortium Agreement prior to the student's enrollment allows Dickinson, as the home institution, to administer federal financial aid. Parents of students studying abroad may also use the financing systems (Federal Direct Parent [PLUS Loan](#), [Nelnet Campus Commerce](#) tuition payment plan) mentioned earlier in this booklet.

Linkage programs, such as 3-2 Engineering programs, 3+3 Penn State Dickinson School of Law, Johns Hopkins University (JHU) Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) and Thunderbird School of Global Management Certificate of Advanced Global Studies are treated differently. Dickinson College financial aid (including merit scholarships) does not extend to the student's time at the linkage institution. Check with the participating school for their current financial aid policy.

13. Is Summer Session Attendance Covered?

Students who need loan assistance to pay for summer classes at other institutions must first obtain approval to take these classes from the [Registrar's Office](#) and forward a copy of their approval to the Office of Financial Aid. Dickinson must execute a Consortium Agreement with the host school before summer loan assistance can be processed. Not all host schools will be willing to wait for payment until the summer loan has been processed, approved, credited to the Dickinson student account, and refunded to the student therefore, students taking classes elsewhere should be prepared to pay their host school up front and reimburse themselves with their loan refund. Students are encouraged to discuss summer planning with their financial aid counselor.

Students currently receiving need-based Dickinson Grant assistance may also receive aid for short-term Summer, Globally Integrated, or Mosaic programs in addition to the traditional eight semesters required for graduation. Eligible students will first receive loan assistance. Grant aid, through the Donald B. and Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation ([see Dickinson College Grant Programs](#)), will be awarded to students with the highest financial need. Since a limited amount of grant aid is available for summer study, students must apply early. Applicants will receive summer financial aid offers shortly after they have been accepted into their program, before they must make their final decision to attend.

Students enrolling in summer school at Dickinson may be eligible for federal financial aid, including the Federal Direct Loan. Dickinson Grant funds are not available for summer school.

14. What Happens if I Become a Resident Advisor (RA)?

The room fee waiver will be treated as a resource for determining eligibility for need-based aid. Eligibility for Federal Direct subsidized student loans and Federal Work-Study may be reduced if increased resources exceed the student's federal eligibility. **Dickinson Grant eligibility will NOT be affected unless the total revised aid exceeds the Cost of Attendance.** A student who becomes an RA may still be eligible to participate in the Federal Work-Study program. International students may not be employed for more than 10 additional hours per week in work-study, institutional, or outside jobs, according to federal regulations. A financial aid counselor can provide more specific information for individuals who are considering becoming an RA.

15. What if I Live Off-Campus?

The financial aid budget is reduced to reflect the reduced living costs of commuters (students who live with their parents within a 25-mile radius). The budget will include an allowance for personal expenses, transportation, housing, food, and household expenses. Since the costs associated with commuting are lower, eligibility for financial aid also will be reduced. For those living off-campus and not with parents, the Office of Financial Aid will use Dickinson's current standard housing and food costs as an estimate of living costs.

Budgets for independent students as defined by the FAFSA may include an Independent Student Allowance as an estimate of living costs. Commuting and off-campus students are billed for tuition and fees only; if financial aid credits exceed billable costs, the excess can be refunded to the student to assist in paying for food, rent, or transportation expenses. Students may request credit refunds from the Office of Student Accounts after the first week of classes.

16. What if I Live in Premium Housing On-Campus?

Eligibility for financial aid is based on our standard [Cost of Attendance](#), which includes the median amount of on campus housing and food plan. The cost of attendance will not be adjusted to reflect the modestly higher [cost](#) for a single room or apartment suite, unless a student has been approved for a certain type of housing for medically necessary documented accommodation. A student who elects to live in a single room or apartment suite is responsible for the increased cost.

17. Is There an Appeal Process?

Students have the right to request reevaluation of their eligibility for federal student aid due to special and/or unusual circumstances, known as professional judgement. Students who have a concern regarding Dickinson's financial aid policies should first discuss the issue with their financial aid counselor. Most concerns can be addressed at that level. If a satisfactory outcome cannot be reached, the student may submit an appeal for variance from the institutional policy to the Financial Aid Committee. Please contact your assigned financial aid counselor to obtain the Request for Reconsideration form. If the appeal is a request for additional funds, it must be in writing, and include:

- The additional dollar amount of aid which the student believes would make continued enrollment financially feasible; and
- The specific financial circumstances which have led to the request (please use dollar amounts wherever applicable and provide supporting documentation).

Appeals concerning policy variance must include a clear description of the student's situation, detailing the reason the variance is being requested. For more information on the reconsideration process, please see our policy on [Professional Judgement](#)

Appeals concerning [Satisfactory Academic Progress \(SAP\)](#) should be addressed to the College's Financial Aid Appeal Committee. The Financial Aid Office will consider additional extenuating circumstances, if in the judgement of the Dean of Academic Advising, they are warranted. Appeals will be evaluated on the extenuating circumstance listed and the likelihood that the academic plan for the student will ensure satisfactory academic progress. Failure to adhere to the academic plan will result in removal of future aid.

An appeal needs to include the [Dickinson College SAP Appeal Form](#) and letter of explanation for extenuating circumstances. Any supporting documentation should also be submitted. If an appeal is not submitted for acceptable reasons, or does not include the Dickinson College SAP Appeal Form, it will automatically be denied and will not be reviewed by the SAP committee. If the appeal is submitted, but documentation is not included, the student will be contacted to submit additional documentation. Only once the Financial Aid Office has a completed appeal will it be reviewed.

If your SAP Appeal is approved, but it is mathematically impossible to resolve all SAP deficiencies in one semester, an additional Academic Success Plan (ASP) will be created giving more flexibility in federal financial aid reinstatement. The result of the ASP will resolve all SAP deficiencies. The plans are created by the

Academic Advisor or Dean of Advising and can vary in length. Students who are granted aid eligibility through this process may receive aid for up to one year before another SAP review is conducted. This plan could be extended if the student meets the benchmarks outlined in the plan.

18. What if I Withdraw from the College?

Refunds & Return of Title IV Funds Policy

Dickinson College's refund policy applies to all students attending the Carlisle campus who withdraw (WD), are dismissed, or take a Leave of Absence (LOA) from the college after the start of classes. A separate policy applies to those who are attending sites approved through the [Center for Global Study and Engagement](#) student's date of withdrawal is determined by either:

- The date the student begins the withdrawal process by contacting the Registrar's Office, or
- The last date the student attends class or uses the food plan or housing assignment after requesting leave through the Associate Vice President for Student Life, or
- The date the student is officially dismissed from the college, or
- If the student leaves without notifying the institution, the mid-point of the semester or the student's last documented attendance at any academically related activity, including a collegiate sport or club, whichever is later.

Refunds of all institutional charges for tuition, required fees, housing and food are determined on a daily pro-rata basis until 60% of the semester has been completed. No refunds are calculated after 60% of the semester has elapsed. Weekends are included in counted days except when part of a scheduled period of non-attendance of five days or more, such as spring break.

For example, if a semester includes 110 days from the first day of classes through the last day of final exams and a student withdraws on the 50th day, Dickinson will retain 45.4 % (rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent) of charges for tuition, fees, housing and food. The complementary percentage, 54.6%, would be refunded to the student and/or the financial aid programs that have paid a portion of the student's costs. Any outstanding balance will be deducted from the refund due to the student.

Students who withdraw prior to the beginning of the first day of classes will receive a 100% refund, except for the non-refundable enrollment deposit.

For students receiving financial aid, the following rules apply:

- A. Funds will be returned to financial aid programs before any funds are returned to the student.
- B. **Return of Title IV (Federal) Funds:** Funds received from the Federal financial aid programs will be aggregated and refunded to the programs using the same percentage as calculated above. After 60% of the semester has been completed, federal financial aid funds are viewed as "earned" in their entirety, and no refund will be made. Funds will be returned in the order prescribed by the US Department of Education: Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan, Federal Direct Subsidized Loan,

Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan, Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant.

- C. Grant/Scholarship aid from Dickinson will be refunded to the source from which it came using the calculated refund percentage.
- D. State Grants will be refunded in accordance with the guidelines of the appropriate state grant agency.
- E. Outstanding balances due to the College will be deducted from any refund due to the student. If the student's bill has not been paid in full or if there are new charges on the student's account, the refund credit to the student account may not fully cover the charges. In this instance, the student may continue to have an outstanding balance owed to Dickinson and will not receive a cash refund. Otherwise, any credit remaining on the student account will be refunded to the student within 30 days.

The Office of Financial Aid is required by federal statute to recalculate federal financial aid eligibility for students who withdraw officially, unofficially, administratively and for those who take an unapproved leave of absence. The federal Title IV financial aid programs must be recalculated in each of these situations to determine the amount of aid earned by the student. Return of unearned aid should be completed as soon as possible, and no later than 45 days after the date of determination.

The College may credit a student's account with a post-withdrawal disbursement of eligible Title IV grant funds without the student's permission for current charges for tuition, fees, and housing and food (if the student contracts with the College) up to the amount of outstanding charges. The College must credit the student's account with the post-withdrawal disbursement of Title IV Grant funds for current charges within 180 days of the date of determination.

The College must notify a student, or, in the case of a Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan, the College must notify the parent, in writing, prior to making any post-withdrawal disbursement of loan funds, whether those loan funds are to be credited to the student's account or disbursed directly to the student or parent. The information provided in this notification must include the information necessary for the student or parent to make an informed decision as to whether the student or parent would like to accept any disbursement of loan funds, and must be provided within 30 days of the date of a College's determination that a student has withdrawn. The College can also impose a deadline for the response requirement from the student. In addition, the notice must request confirmation of any post-withdrawal disbursement that the student or parent, as applicable, wishes the College to make.

19. What if I take a Leave of Absence or enroll exclusively in the Internship/ Research Experience Program during a full semester?

For loan repayment purposes, students on a leave of absence or participating exclusively in an internship for less than half-time credit during a full semester are considered withdrawn from Dickinson College. Federal Student Loans have a grace period before [repayment](#) of the loan must begin (which is six months from the date of separation for Direct Loans). Students who have not re-enrolled with at least a half-time course load by the end of the grace period must begin repaying their loans. The loans will revert to in-school status once students are re-enrolled with at least a half-time course load. Since the grace period has been used, however, the loans will go into immediate repayment once students are no longer enrolled. Students with Private Loans should consult with their lender concerning treatment of leaves of absence.

Leave of Absence (LOA) and Consortium Agreements Dickinson College funds are not available while on a LOA, or, if you study at another institution (excluding Dickinson approved study abroad programs). Dickinson

College does not process Consortium Agreements for Federal and state aid while a student is on a Leave of Absence. Please contact the Office of Financial Aid if you wish to borrow a private loan.

20. What if I enroll part-time?

Institutional aid (e.g. grant, merit) is not available for part-time study. Federal Direct Loan funds are available for half-time enrollment. Students may be eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant if enrolled less than half-time. Students enrolled less than half-time will enter Federal loan repayment. Students must receive approval to enroll part-time from the Registrar. Students should confirm with Housing that they can live in campus housing while part-time. Annual fees for part-time study are listed [here](#).

21. What if my enrollment changes from full-time to part-time during the semester?

After the census date (add/drop) tuition and aid are not recalculated. This includes the [Pell Grant](#). Please see the [2025-2026 Academic Calendar](#) for the add/drop deadlines.

22. What if I need Assistance with Computer Expenses?

Students may receive **additional loan funds**, with receipts, up to a **combined maximum of \$3,000** for the following technology-related expenses. Within this total, there is a **maximum allowable amount of \$1,300 for a laptop computer** (including case and optional extended warranty).

Eligible items include:

- Laptop Computer and Case (and optional extended warranty) — *maximum of \$1,300*
- Desktop Computer (and optional extended warranty)
- Tablet Computer and Case (and optional extended warranty)
- External Hard Drive
- External Monitor
- Keyboard and Mouse
- Earphones or Headphones
- Printer/Scanner
- USB Cable

All purchases must be supported by itemized receipts. The total reimbursement or loan eligibility for all items listed above may not exceed **\$3,000**.

23. How can I track my Loan Debt?

Students who borrow Federal Direct Loans (both subsidized and unsubsidized) are encouraged to track their loan debt [here](#). Students need their Studentaid.gov account and password to log in and view their student loan information. Students may use the site to keep track of their aggregate borrowing, find their loan servicer(s), view interest rates of previous loans, and track when loans will enter repayment. Students should review their student loan account at least annually. Early awareness of total student loan debt can help students make educated decisions.

24. Where can I Find Consumer Information?

Federal regulations require colleges to provide consumer information. Students are individually notified of the availability of required reports and disclosures annually via the Gateway portal and can be provided in written form upon request. Please [click here](#) to review required reports and disclosures.

25. Where can I Find Financial Literacy Information?

Understanding basic financial literacy is an essential skill both during college and beyond Dickinson's limestone walls. The Office of Financial Aid collaborates with a financial literacy educator, [iGrad](#), to bring web-based resources to our students and alumni. The program offers loan counseling, scholarship search resources, and tips on savings, investing, and retirement planning. We expect all students will register for this free resource and encourage them to complete at least one iGrad course during their first year at Dickinson.

26. Are there other laws related to drugs that can make me ineligible for Title IV, HEA program assistance?

The Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 includes provisions that authorize Federal and State judges to deny certain Federal benefits -- including Title IV, HEA student aid -- to persons convicted of drug trafficking or possession. The Department of Education maintains a list within the Federal Processing System (FPS) (provided by the Department of Justice) against which all FAFSA applicants are matched. Applicants on the DOJ Drug Abuse Hold list are notified that they are not eligible for Title IV, HEA funds and told whom they can contact if they have questions.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A discussion of federal financial aid recipients' rights and responsibilities is included in [The Guide to Federal Student Aid](#), a financial aid publication of the U.S. Department of Education. This publication contains more detailed information about the federal student aid programs mentioned in this booklet.

Dickinson provides services for disabled students on an individual basis depending upon need. These services are administered by the [Access and Disability Services](#). Most of the academic facilities of the College are accessible to mobility-impaired students. Facilities include wheelchair ramps, special parking, elevators, specially equipped restrooms, and lowered drinking fountains.

The College operates drug abuse prevention programs that are accessible to students and employees at the institution. Further information is available for students through the [Wellness Center](#), and for employees through [Human Resources Services \(Franco Associates\)](#).

Upon request, the Office of Financial Aid will provide the full address and phone number of the [agency](#) in each of the 50 states and the U.S. territories where information regarding state student financial aid is available.

WHOM TO CONTACT FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE

For information about academic and social programs at Dickinson College, please consult the [Dickinson College Bulletin](#) or contact the [Office of Admissions](#) (717-245-1231). Information related to bills or the billing process may be obtained from the [Office of Student Accounts](#) (717-245-1953). Information related to study abroad may be obtained from the [Center for Global Study and Engagement](#) (717-245-1341). Questions regarding the financial aid programs should be directed to one of the following members of the [Office of Financial Aid](#) staff:

Students with the
Last name beginning with A-C
& VA Certifying Official

[Dan Guerrisi](#)
Assistant Director

Students with the
Last name beginning with D-He

[Jamie Chase](#)
Assistant Director

Students with the
Last name beginning with Hf-Mc

[Katelynn Bias](#)
Associate Director

Students with the
Last name beginning with Md-R

[Mackenzie Weaver](#)
Assistant Director

Students with the
Last name beginning with S-W &
PA Foster Care Single Point of Contact

[Erica Burg](#)
Senior Associate Director

Students with the
Last name beginning with X-Z
& International Students

[Allura Alonso](#)
Director

Loan Questions

[Carolyn Sloan](#)
Financial Aid Loan & Systems Specialist

Office of Financial Aid
Dickinson College
P.O. Box 1773
Carlisle, PA 17013-2896

Phone: (717) 245-1308
Fax: (717) 245-1972
E-Mail: finaid@dickinson.edu
Document Upload: [Secure Upload Form](#)

[CSS Profile](#) School Code 2186

[FAFSA](#) School Code 003253

Dickinson College is an intellectual and social community which values justice, free inquiry, diversity and equal opportunity. It is a fundamental policy of the College to respect pluralism and to promote tolerance, civility and mutual understanding within its community. The College does not discriminate on such bases as race, color, sex, political and religious beliefs, marital status, age, sexual orientation, national and ethnic origins, veteran's status or disability.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Academic Year (AY): The enrollment period for which aid is awarded. Academic years begin July 1st and end June 30th of the following calendar year.

Cost of Attendance (COA): The estimated total cost of attending an institution for one academic year. This amount may include the following:

- Estimated charges for one academic year of tuition and fees
 - Tuition – Charges assessed for classes and/or other coursework
 - Fees – Charges assessed for other college services (e.g. technology access, recreational center use)
- Housing – Includes residence hall charges for on-campus students or an estimate of rent and utilities for an off-campus student
- Food – Includes the cost of a meal plan and/or an estimate of the costs of food prepared at home
- Estimated transportation and parking costs
- Estimated costs for books and supplies
- Purchase or rental of a computer
- Miscellaneous costs such as personal hygiene, laundry, and reasonable entertainment
- Other costs specific to certain student circumstances related to attendance, such as dependent care during periods of class attendance or study, expenses related to disabilities, study abroad, educational loan fees, and others
- Student health insurance costs

CSS Profile: Available from the College Board, this document collects additional financial and household information. We use the CSS Profile when we determine a student's eligibility for Dickinson Grant money. Dickinson's [CSS Profile](#) code is 2186.

Demonstrated Need: We calculate your aid eligibility by looking at the difference between budgeted student costs, and the strength of your family's financial resources. The formula is Cost of Attendance (COA) minus Student Aid Index (SAI) equals Demonstrated Need. (COA – SAI = Need)

Dependent Student: On the FAFSA, a dependent student must report parent financial information. Find information on dependency status [here](#).

Educational Loan: A form of financial aid that must be repaid. Educational loans have varying fees, interest rates, repayment terms, and/or borrower protections.

- **Federal Student Loan:** Federal funds made available to the student that must be paid back by the student. Students must complete Entrance Counseling and a Master Promissory Note (MPN) to receive these loans. Repayment begins six months after the student ceases to be enrolled at least half-time with options to delay payment available. To be eligible, the student must be enrolled at least half-time in an eligible program of study.
 - **Federal Direct Subsidized Student Loan:** Loan funds provided *to the student* by the U.S. Department of Education, through the school. Undergraduate

students with financial need can qualify for a subsidized loan. The government pays the interest on the loan while the student remains enrolled at least half time and during certain periods when the government allows deferment of repayment. There are annual limits on the amounts that may be borrowed, which vary by the student's academic year in school and the student's dependent or independent status.

- **Federal Direct Unsubsidized Student Loan:** Loan funds provided *to the student* by the U.S. Department of Education, through the school. Undergraduate students and graduate students regardless of their need, qualify for an unsubsidized loan, provided they have filed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Interest accrual begins immediately, and the student can choose to pay the interest while enrolled or upon entering repayment. There are annual limits on the amounts that may be borrowed, which vary by the student's academic year in school and the student's dependent or independent status.

- **Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan (PLUS):** Loan funds provided *to the parents* of dependent undergraduate students by the U.S. Department of Education, through the school. This federal loan program allows parents with no adverse credit history to apply for a loan amount up to the Cost of Attendance each year, less any financial aid received by the dependent student. Repayment of principal and interest begins immediately once the loan is fully disbursed with some options to delay payment available.

- **Private Loan:** A student or parent loan from a commercial, state-affiliated or institutional lender used to pay for up to the annual Cost of Attendance, less any financial aid received. Most private loans have varying interest rates, fees, and repayment options. These loans usually require the applicant to be creditworthy or have a creditworthy cosigner.

Enrollment Status: Academic workload (or course load), as defined by the institution, in which a student is enrolled for a defined academic period. This normally relates to the number of credit hours or clock hours taken by a student during a given academic period (e.g. full-time, three-quarter-time, half-time, less-than-half-time).

Expected Direct Costs: Charges included in the Cost of Attendance that the student/family pays directly to the college.

Student Aid Index (SAI): An eligibility index that college financial aid staff use to determine how much financial aid you would receive if you were to attend their school. The SAI is calculated according to a formula specified in law and is based upon the information provided by the student and their family on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA and CSS Profile may calculate different SAIs, and both are used in determining a student's need-based aid eligibility.

FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS): is the document a student receives after submitting the FAFSA and includes a summary of the FAFSA data submitted on the student's application. The FSS is a summary of the information the student and parents listed on the FAFSA and also provides some basic financial aid eligibility information. The FSS will indicate if the FAFSA is complete and, if so, it will contain the student's Student Aid Index (SAI) in the upper right-hand corner of the form.

Family Financial Responsibility (FFR): Many schools award institutional need-based scholarships and grants based upon a more comprehensive calculation of family financial circumstances using information provided on the CSS PROFILE or the institution's own financial aid form. This can result in a higher (or lower) figure than the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) might indicate with its Student Aid Index (SAI) estimate.

Family Grid: Provides information on household size and the number of students in college. Read guidelines carefully to determine who should be included on your family grid.

Federal Pell Grant: A federal grant provided by the federal government to undergraduate students who demonstrate exceptional financial need and have a Student Aid Index below a certain threshold established by the federal government. The Pell Grant award amount is prorated based on Enrollment Status.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG): A federal grant awarded by the institution to qualified undergraduate students who demonstrate exceptional financial need. Priority is given to Federal Pell Grant recipients.

Federal Work-Study (FWS): A federal program offered and administered by the institution that provides opportunity for part-time employment to students with financial need to help pay their educational expenses. Students are responsible for finding qualified employment. Funds are paid out through a paycheck, as earned.

Financial Aid Offer: The offer of financial assistance you will receive, once need analysis has been completed. Financial Aid offers may include a combination of merit-based scholarships, grant money, work study, and student loans.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA): The Department of Education requires families to file a FAFSA in order to be eligible for federal aid programs, including Unsubsidized Direct and Parent PLUS Loans. The FAFSA may be completed after October 1st, for the following school year. (For example, the 2025-2026 FAFSA may be completed as of October 1st, 2023.) The FAFSA will collect federal tax data from two years prior; see the entry on “Prior-Prior Year” for more details. Some states use the FAFSA as their application for state grant money; check [here](#) for your state’s deadline. Dickinson’s FAFSA code is 003253.

Gift Aid: Funds awarded to the student that do not have to be repaid, unless the student fails to meet certain criteria, such as a service requirement that is specified as a condition of the gift aid or not completing the period for which the aid was awarded. Gift aid can include awards with titles such as grants, scholarships, remissions, awards, waivers, etc. Gift aid can be awarded based upon many factors, including (but not limited to) financial need, academic excellence, athletic, musical, and/or theatrical talent, affiliation with various groups, and/or career aspirations.

Grant: Gift Aid that is typically based on financial need. Does not need to be repaid.

Independent Student: On the FAFSA, an independent student is not required to report parent financial information. Guidelines for dependency status can be found [here](#).

Indirect Costs: Estimated expenses in the Cost of Attendance that are not paid directly to the institution.

Institutional Job Capacity: Administered by the institution that provides opportunity for part-time employment to students with financial need to help pay their educational expenses. Students are responsible for finding qualified employment. Funds are paid out through a paycheck, as earned.

IRS FUTURE Act Direct Data Exchange (FA-DDX): The Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education (FUTURE) Act amended Section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) to allow the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to disclose certain Federal Tax Information (FTI) to FSA. The IRS and FSA worked together to develop the FUTURE Act Direct Data Exchange (FA-DDX) solution, which establishes a secure connection between both agencies through an application programming interface that will process requests in near-real time. The FA-DDX replaces the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (IRS DRT) and will be used beginning with the 2025-2026 award year to import certain FTI into an applicant's FAFSA form.

Master Promissory Note (MPN): The document you must sign prior to obtaining a student loan. The MPN will outline the terms of the loan including the interest rate, loan period, repayment guidelines, and much more. Students must complete the MPN for any Direct Subsidized, Unsubsidized, or institutional loans they accept.

Merit Scholarship: A form of grant money awarded based on demonstrated academic achievement, community involvement, and extracurricular talent. Merit scholarships are not need-based. Learn about Dickinson's Merit Scholarships [here](#).

Need: The student's Cost of Attendance minus their Student Aid Index, or Family Financial Responsibility (if applicable).

Need-Based Aid: Financial assistance offered on the basis of a family's demonstrated need. May include institutional grants, Pell grants, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity grants, work study, and federal loans.

Need-Sensitive: Toward the end of the admissions process, we find it most reasonable to be sensitive to need as we select candidates for admission. Rather than admit students whose need we cannot meet, and ask them to take on cumbersome educational loans, we strive to make a Dickinson education affordable for every admitted student.

Net Price: Amount of direct and indirect costs remaining after all Gift Aid is applied. Net price can be covered through a variety of sources, including savings, income, and education loans.

Net Price Calculator: Provides an estimate of your need-based aid eligibility at Dickinson. Be as accurate as possible, and follow the instructions carefully as you fill in the [calculator](#).

Non-Custodial Parent CSS Profile: If your natural parents are divorced, your custodial parent's information will be included on the FAFSA and CSS Profile. Your non-custodial parent will be asked to provide financial information through the College Board.

Number in College: The number of dependent children in your parent's household, who are enrolled at least half-time as matriculated students in a degree- or certificate-seeking program, at a Title IV-eligible institution.

One Big Beautiful Bill Act: The One Big Beautiful Bill Act, or the Big Beautiful Bill, is a U.S. federal statute passed by the 119th United States Congress containing tax and spending policies.

Prior-Prior Year: The FAFSA will collect federal tax data from two years prior; for 2025-2026, the FAFSA calculation will be based on 2023 tax returns, but will still request information on current assets, household size, and number of students in college.

Private Educational Loan: Available through private lenders such as banks and credit unions, these loans provide financing options to families paying for higher education. Our historic lender list is represented through [ELMSelect](#).

Program Level: Level of the degree-granting program in which a student is enrolled. Program levels may include undergraduate (students seeking an associate degree, an undergraduate certificate, or a baccalaureate degree); post-baccalaureate (such as teacher certification); or graduate (students working on a master's degree, graduate certificate, doctorate, or professional degree). The amounts and types of financial aid for which a student is eligible is determined, in part, by their program level.

Scholarship: Gift Aid that is typically based on merit, such as, academic excellence, talent, affiliation with various groups, or career aspirations or a combination of merit and need.

Self-help: An institution's expectation that a student contribute toward their education using a combination of loans, student employment such as Federal Work-Study, and/or summer savings.

Tax Account Transcript: Similar to a tax return transcript but includes a running total of the individual's tax account.

Tax Return Transcript: The official receipt of tax return processing from the IRS. A transcript is available based on calendar year. Visit the [IRS – Get Transcript](#) page to request your tax year transcript.

Title IV Eligible: Determines if the student and the institution are eligible to receive federal need-based financial aid. Basic eligibility criteria include demonstrated financial need, enrollment in an eligible degree program, U.S. citizenship or eligible non-citizenship, and more. Please visit [this helpful graphic](#) to determine if you are eligible.

Unmet Need: The student's Cost of Attendance, minus their Student Aid Index or Family Financial Responsibility (if applicable), less any need-based aid received, such as Gift Aid, Federal Work-Study or Federal Direct Subsidized Loans.

Verification: A federally mandated process to confirm the accuracy of data provided by selected applicants on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). To complete the verification process, the student, their parent(s), or spouse, if applicable, are required to provide certain documents to the school for review. If the documentation the student provides the institution doesn't match what was reported on the FAFSA, verification can result in changes to the student's financial aid eligibility, and/or financial aid offers.