2027-28
Incoming Student Financing Information

Dickinson

The Office of Financial Aid helps families manage the costs of education by providing them with financial aid information and services. A financial aid offer is carefully developed for each individual and may include scholarships, grants, student loans and/or on campus work opportunities. Payment plans and parent loans are available to families who don't qualify for aid, or who need to supplement the student's financial aid offer. Learn more at

dickinson.edu/financialaid

Federal Direct Loan Program

This program consists of subsidized (need-based) and unsubsidized loans. If a student has remaining need based on the formula below, subsidized loans will be offered.

Cost of Attendance

– Student Aid Index (SAI) (Calculated by the FAFSA)

– Other Financial Aid

Remaining Need

Amount you can borrow each academic year:

First Year	**$5,500**
Sophomore	**$6,500**
Junior	**$7,500**
Senior	**$7,500**

The maximum subsidized loan is $3,500 for first-year students, $4,500 for sophomores, and $5,500 for juniors and seniors. If your remaining need is less than the maximum amount in a subsidized loan, you will be offered the difference as an unsubsidized loan, in addition to the standard $2,000 of unsubsidized eligibility each year.

Nelnet Campus Commerce

mycollegepaymentplan.com/Dickinson

A Tuition Payment Plan is available to Dickinson College families. Administered through Nelnet Campus Commerce, the payment plan is recommended to help you budget payment of your educational expenses and limit your debt.

Nelnet's monthly payment plan allows you to spread your education expenses over smaller monthly installments for a small enrollment fee (currently $50 per semester*). There is no pre-qualification or credit check for this service. For more information on the Nelnet payment plan, please visit **dickinson.edu/paymentplans**.

*This is the current 2026-27 rate. These rates are subject to change.

Federal Direct Loan Program for Parents of Undergraduate Students (PLUS)

Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loans can supplement other financial aid and fund all or part of the Student Aid Index (SAI). The Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan can cover costs up to the cost of attendance (COA), but cannot exceed $20,000 per year. In addition, there is a $65,000 aggregate maximum per student. Credit score is not a factor in the approval. Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loans are generally processed for the full academic year and disbursed directly to the school. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) must be completed before a Federal PLUS application can be processed. Additional information is available on the **financial aid website**.

Private Educational Loans

Families may wish to consider a private, credit-based educational loan to help fund remaining costs. Submission of a FAFSA is not required to apply for a private loan, but the student is usually required to obtain a credit-worthy U.S. co-signer for the loan to be approved in their name. Parent Private Loans are also available. Private loans typically have fewer protections and flexibilities than federal loans, but those with excellent credit may qualify for lower interest rates. Dickinson encourages careful due diligence before selecting a private loan and always recommends Federal Direct Parent Plus, Federal Direct Subsidized, and Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans be utilized first. Before applying for a private loan, please research the answers to important questions on our **Private Educational Loans page**.

The Combination Strategy

HOW TO DETERMINE THE BEST WAY TO FINANCE YOUR REMAINING BALANCE

While the payment plan is the most cost effective means of budgeting payment of educational expenses, the step-by-step resource on the following page will enable you to calculate whether the payment plan alone or a combination of available options is most feasible for you.

First determine the difference between your costs and any financial aid you expect to receive and divide by ten. If the resulting monthly payment is greater than the amount you are able to pay each month, you may wish to use a combination strategy that utilizes the advantages of both payments through a monthly payment plan and a longer-term payment through the Federal Direct PLUS Loan or a private loan program.

STEP-BY-STEP
Planning for remaining costs

Step One
IDENTIFYING REMAINING COSTS

Determine the billed cost of attending Dickinson College. Enter your estimated expenses for Federal Direct Subsidized or Federal Direct Unsubsidized 2027-28 from your financial aid offer. If you do not plan to utilize the Subsidized or Unsubsidized loans, enter the "Estimated Billed Cost After Gift Aid." Otherwise enter "Estimated Billed Cost After Gift Aid & Loans."

A. $ _____

Families borrowing Federal Direct Parent PLUS or Private Loans may choose to finance some or all of the out-of-pocket (non-billed) expenses for books, supplies, living and transportation expenses ($3,250 est.). While actual costs will vary from student to student, the amounts provided on the financial aid offer are generally the maximum amounts that may be used at Dickinson for financial aid and parent or student loans.

Planned Non-Billed Expenses to Cover **B. $** _____

Total Remaining Costs to Cover (A + B) **C. $** _____

Step Two
FAMILY RESOURCES

Decide how much you can afford to pay for education expenses from current income and savings. Increasing your contribution, even modestly can produce significant interest savings over borrowing.

529 Plan, Investments
Annual Payment from Savings, **D. $** _____

(amount to budget with NelNet Campus Commerce)
Monthly Ability to Contribute from Income* **E. $** _____

(amount in E above x10 payments)
Academic Year Income Contributions **F. $** _____

(D + F above)
Total Annual Family Resources **G. $** _____

If borrowing the Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan, keep in mind those payments begin 60 days after the last disbursement when factoring monthly contribution. Deferment options are available through the federal loan servicer.

Step Three
REMAINING FINANCING NEEDED

To determine if any additional amount remains to be financed:

Subtract the amount in field G from field C **H. $** _____

Field H represents the amount of additional assistance needed to secure costs for the 2027-28 academic year. Options to finance this amount are:

- The Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan
- A private student loan (cosigner likely required)
- A private parent loan

Step Four
ACTION PLAN

Now that you have decided how much you can afford to pay for education expenses each month:

- We encourage you to go to **mycollegepaymentplan.com/Dickinson** to investigate the Dickinson Tuition Payment Plan and to find the optimum combination of low-interest parent loans and interest-free payments that fit your monthly budget requirements.
- If you need help or do not have web access, call Nelnet Campus Commerce at **800-609-8056** and an education payment counselor can assist you with affordability counseling.
- Research which loan type is best for you and your student.
- Additional information is available on our **Loans and Financing Options page**.

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