



SHOW ME THE MONEY! TIPS ON FUNDING YOUR EDUCATION

Cost is an important factor to consider when choosing a college or university, and so is understanding the return on investment that your education will provide. We are committed to supporting you and your family throughout the admissions process by providing a full understanding of the financial aid options at UMass Amherst.

WHERE DO I START?

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the only application used to apply for financial aid. The 2026–2027 FAFSA will be available October 1, 2025—you should complete it as soon as possible.

The first step to completing the FAFSA is to get a Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID at fafsa.gov. If you are a dependent student, the parent who provides the majority of your financial support also needs an FSA ID. Your FSA ID serves as your electronic signature and will allow you to make electronic corrections to your FAFSA information once you have applied. Remember to list the University of Massachusetts Amherst as one of the schools on your FAFSA form! UMass Amherst's school code is **002221**.

KNOW THE FACTS

48%	20%
Of first-year undergraduates receive some form of grant or scholarship need-based aid	Of undergraduates receive a Pell Grant
46.9%	\$14,400
Of undergraduates receive grant or scholarship need-based aid	The average undergraduate need-based scholarship and grant financial aid package



UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

- **What's merit-based financial aid?**
Aid awarded to students based on academics or other merit.
- **What's need-based financial aid?**
Aid awarded strictly based on a student's financial profile, which considers family assets and income.
- **What's a grant?**
A grant is a monetary award that you do not have to pay back.
- **What's a scholarship?**
Similar to a grant, a scholarship is financial aid you do not have to pay back.
- **What's a loan?**
A loan is a form of financial aid that you must pay back with interest, usually after you graduate or leave school.
- **What's work-study?**
Work-study is a form of need-based federal financial aid. Work-study provides students with part-time and seasonal employment opportunities in a variety of on- and off-campus jobs.

To learn more, scan here to view our website:



HOW FINANCIAL AID SERVICES CAN SUPPORT YOU

- Provide help with completing your FAFSA, verification, and appeals
- Financial aid counseling
- Assistance with loans and loan repayment planning
- Assistance finding and applying for grants and scholarships

PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS TO FUND YOUR EDUCATION

- UMass Amherst Financial Aid scholarship listings: umass.edu/financialaid/undergraduate/undergraduate-scholarships
- UMass Disability Services scholarships: umass.academicworks.com/opportunities/21146
- Community foundations (e.g., Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts); find your local CF: cof.org/community-foundation-locator

FOR MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS

John and Abigail Adams or Stanley Z. Koplík Award Recipients

If you have the John and Abigail Adams or Stanley Z. Koplík tuition credits, they are worth \$1,714/year at UMass Amherst. You cannot apply both awards toward your account; you must choose which one to use.

WHAT'S NEXT

- Complete your 2025–2026 FAFSA as soon as possible.
- Check your email for your FAFSA confirmation.
- Follow up on any UMass financial aid "To Do" items on your student portal.
- Apply, apply, apply for as many private scholarships during the school year.

Pro Tip:

Search for scholarships locally! Check with your high school guidance office, employer, and any volunteer, religious, and social organizations where you have a connection.

Pro Tip:

The Job Board has hundreds of jobs!
umass.edu/financialaid/student-employment

STAY IN TOUCH!
OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID SERVICES
FINAID@FINAID.UMASS.EDU



SHOW ME THE MONEY!