

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE FINANCING OPTIONS

Students and parents who wish to defer all or part of their Swarthmore costs may be interested in the long-term, low-interest educational loans, monthly payment plan, or campus job opportunities. Here, all families — whether receiving financial aid support from the College or meeting all costs on their own — may use one or more of these programs.

Before you assess these options, consider the total educational expenses you need to meet for the academic year. For 2024-25 the bill for tuition (including books), student activity fee, food and housing will total \$81,376. In addition to these billed expenses, we estimate that you will need to spend about \$760 for academic supplies and up to \$1,540 for personal expenses. You should plan for at least two roundtrip fares between your home and the College. Remember that campus activities such as movies, lectures, athletic events, and concerts are open to all students for free.

FEDERAL DIRECT LOANS — FOR STUDENTS

Up to \$5,500 available to first-years

Up to \$6,500 available to sophomores

Up to \$7,500 available to juniors

Up to \$7,500 available to seniors

The **Federal Direct Loan** is a long-term, low-interest educational loan for students. Eligibility for a Direct Loan is determined by the College. Using federal guidelines, the College determines the maximum you may borrow and whether the interest on your loan will be federally-subsidized during your enrollment.

How to apply for a Federal Direct Loan:

- Complete a 2023-24 Federal FAFSA application online at studentaid.gov.
- **Incoming students:** We will email you Federal Direct Loan instructions late in May, and you will apply for that loan through our website.
- **Previous borrowers:** If you borrowed through this program in the past, we'll process your loan for the amount you requested on your CSS PROFILE. If you want to change that amount, please email sloans@swarthmore.edu.
- **Continuing students who have not previously borrowed:** Please follow the link and instructions found at: swarthmore.edu/financial-aid.

You will receive confirmation from the Financial Aid Office soon after your loan is approved. That will be followed by more detailed information from the U.S. Department of Education.

If your federal eligibility allows, the interest on your loan will be paid by the U.S. Department of Education during your enrollment: a “**subsidized**” loan. If you are not eligible, your loan will be “**unsubsidized.**” That means that interest accrues during your enrollment and will be your responsibility to repay. You may pay the interest during your enrollment, however, to reduce the growth of your debt.

The **interest rate** on the Federal Direct Loan will be set by Congress in July 2024. The **federal administrative fee** will be about 1% during the 2024-25 academic year.

About Federal Direct Loan repayment:

Whether your loan is subsidized or unsubsidized, you will not need to begin repaying the loan until six months after you leave school (or after graduate school, if you arrange for the in-school deferment). Your repayment obligation will be about \$10 a month for every \$1,000 borrowed.

Student borrowers are required to complete (in person or online) a loan orientation program prior to the disbursement of the first loan. A debt management program, called an “exit interview” will be given prior to graduation. These programs describe in detail the student's repayment obligations, requirements, and opportunities. More details about repayment of the federal Direct Loan are at studentaid.gov.

FEDERAL DIRECT PLUS LOAN — FOR PARENTS

Up to \$83,676 available each year

The **Federal Direct PLUS Loan** offers parents a longterm educational loan. Parents “who do not have an adverse credit history” may be eligible for the Federal Direct PLUS Loan. Eligibility is determined at the time of application by a credit check.

The interest rate on the Federal Direct PLUS Loan will be set by Congress in July 2024. The federal administrative fee is about 5%. Check studentaid.gov then for an update about the interest rate and fee.

Federal Direct PLUS Loans can be used to cover your full Swarthmore bill (less any aid you are receiving). Repayment of a Federal Direct PLUS Loan may extend over a period of 10 years and must begin one month after the loan is disbursed. At the current 7.54% interest rate, a borrower's repayment obligation will be about \$12 each month for every \$1,000 borrowed.

How to apply for a Federal Direct PLUS Loan:

If you have not already done so, complete a 2024-25 Federal FAFSA application online at studentaid.gov. Parents can start the application process by following the Financing Options link and the instructions found at swarthmore.edu/financial-aid. Please keep in mind that the application process can take several weeks.

The Federal Direct PLUS Loan — less the federal administrative fee — will be disbursed in halves at the beginning of each semester.

What if parents apply for but are denied a Federal Direct PLUS Loan?

Additional but unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan funds are available. If this is your situation, you may request an additional \$4,000 if you are a first-year student or a sophomore, and an additional \$5,000 if you are a junior or senior. (In accordance with federal regulation, this additional loan is available to you only if your parents are denied the Federal Direct PLUS Loan).

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE MONTHLY PAYMENT PLAN

Swarthmore College offers students and parents a flexible, interest-free monthly payment plan. Although no interest is charged, an enrollment fee of \$35 per semester is required for participating. The program enrollment takes place each semester with three separate plan duration options available.

The first installment payment (plus \$35 enrollment fee) is due at the time of enrollment. Please visit swarthmore.edu/student-accounts-office/swarthmorecollege-payment-plan

CAMPUS WORK OPPORTUNITIES

The Student Employment Office (SEO), under student direction, oversees JobX, a job hosting software where students may view and apply for on-campus employment opportunities such as those in the library, Dining Center, Admissions Office, and other administrative or academic offices. Incoming first year students will be invited to information sessions and a job fair during orientation in the fall. The Student Payroll Office will help you to complete necessary paperwork in the fall.



HOW SOME SWARTHMORE FAMILIES MET EXPENSES USING THE FINANCING OPTIONS DESCRIBED ABOVE

CHRIS's family did not want to borrow, but did want the comfort of a monthly payment plan. Chris received an external National Merit Scholarship of \$4,000 each year and his parents budgeted \$75,000 through the College's monthly payment plan. His parents paid \$7,500 each month for 10 months through our payment plan. Chris paid the remainder from his savings and met his own personal expenses with his summer earnings and by working about seven or eight hours weekly on campus.

Since JOAN and her parents qualified for financial aid, she received a decision from the College totaling \$55,560. Joan's earnings from her campus job were used to cover her academic expenses and to pay for toiletries etc., through the year. Her summer earnings as well as a portion of her savings were used toward the College bill. Joan sought \$5,000 through the Federal Direct Loan program, and her parents used \$15,000 of their income and of savings to meet the remaining cost.

DAVID did not apply for Swarthmore financial aid but his family wanted to borrow to cover all of David's Swarthmore expenses. The long-term Federal Direct PLUS Loan was most attractive to them. They borrowed \$75,000 and repaid \$1,040 a month over a 10 year period. David supplemented his parents' loan with his savings, his summer earnings, and a \$5,000 unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan.



SWARTHMORE COLLEGE



ANSWERS TO SOME QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT ASK ABOUT FINANCING OPTIONS

	FEDERAL DIRECT LOAN <i>(Subsidized or Unsubsidized)</i>	FEDERAL DIRECT PLUS LOAN <i>(Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students)</i>	SWARTHMORE MONTHLY PAYMENT PLAN
WHO OFFERS THIS PROGRAM?	U.S. Department of Education	U.S. Department of Education	Swarthmore College
TO WHOM IS IT AVAILABLE?	Students	Parents	Students or Parents
ON WHAT BASIS IS IT AVAILABLE?	Available to all students who are eligible for federal student aid	Available to parents who do not have an “adverse credit history”	Available to anyone
WHO DETERMINES ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION?	Swarthmore College using federal guidelines	U.S. Department of Education	No eligibility requirements
HOW MUCH IS AVAILABLE?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to \$5,500 for first years • Up to \$6,500 for sophomores • Up to \$7,500 for juniors • Up to \$7,500 for seniors 	Up to \$83,676 each year	\$81,376 can be budgeted each year
WHAT IS THE INTEREST RATE?	<p>The interest rate announced by the U.S. Department of Education for the 2023-24 academic year is 4.99%.</p> <p>The 2024-2025 rate will be announced in July 2024.</p>	<p>The interest rate announced by the U.S. Department of Education for the 2023-24 academic year is 7.54%.</p> <p>The 2024-2025 rate will be announced in July 2024.</p>	No interest is charged but there is a \$35 per semester enrollment fee
WHAT FEES WILL BE RETAINED BY U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION?	The current fee is 1.057%.	The current fee is 4.228%.	None
WHEN DOES REPAYMENT BEGIN?	For all borrowers repayment is deferred until the borrower leaves school	Repayment begins soon after the loan is disbursed	Payments begin at the time of enrollment
HOW LONG MAY BORROWER TAKE TO REPAY?	Up to 10 years (excluding deferment periods)	Up to 10 years	There are three separate plan duration options available
WHEN SHOULD APPLICATION BE STARTED?	Submit an application in May or June if new borrower	Submit an application in July	Participants may enroll beginning June 15, for the fall semester and Nov. 15, for the spring semester
WHO WILL PROVIDE AN APPLICATION?	<p>Incoming students: We will email you Federal Direct Loan instructions in May.</p> <p>Previous Direct Loan borrowers: We will process your loan based on the request you entered on your CSS PROFILE form.</p> <p>Upperclass students who have not previously borrowed: Please follow the link and instructions found on the Financial Aid Website</p>	<p>New and previous Federal Direct PLUS Loan borrowers should follow the link and instructions found at: swarthmore.edu/financial-aid</p> 	<p>Online via the Student Accounts website. swarthmore.edu/student-accounts-office</p> 