

A photograph of a lush green campus scene. In the foreground, there are large, vibrant green leaves of a tree, some with small holes. In the background, a stone path winds through a dense forest of tall trees. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

SWARTHMORE

2025–2026

FINANCIAL AID HANDBOOK

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CONFIDENTIALITY IS TAKEN VERY SERIOUSLY AT SWARTHMORE COLLEGE.

We will not share your family's private information with anyone outside our office. Paper documents will be shredded in a timely fashion under the supervision of our staff. Documents emailed to our office will be deleted without opening. All application materials must be uploaded through the College Board's Institutional Documentation Service (IDOC) portal or your Financial Aid Checklist. Correspondence is generally sent only to the students who are responsible to share any and all relevant information with parents/legal guardians.

CALCULATING YOUR FAMILY'S SHARE OF YOUR SWARTHMORE COLLEGE BILL

COLLEGE BILLING

One half of your College bill is to be paid prior to each semester in accordance with the Student Accounts Office's billing cycle. E-bills are distributed about one month prior to the start of each semester. Students can access their e-bills through mySwarthmore. If your parents will be involved in paying your Swarthmore bill, be certain to arrange for their access by following instructions on the [College's Student Accounts Office website](#).

Although College and federal funds will show as deductions on your College bill, funds from outside scholarships such as community or state scholarships/grants will not. You may deduct those amounts from the fall bill in anticipation of the funds reaching the College, but they will not appear as credits on your bill until they are actually received.

Funds received in excess of the College bill will be refunded to students. Financial aid resources will officially be disbursed and credited to the student account at the start of each semester.

2025-26 COST OF ATTENDANCE

Billed Costs (Billed by Swarthmore)		Indirect Costs	
		Other expenses you should anticipate: These expenses will not appear on your College bill but are included on your financial aid decision.	
Tuition.....	\$68,766	Estimated cost for academic supplies.....	\$785
Student activity fee	\$460	Estimated cost for personal/incidental expenses.....	\$1,695
Housing (room).....	\$11,076		
Food (meal plan)	\$10,390		
Total billed costs:	\$90,692	Total indirect costs:	\$2,480
Total actual and estimated educational expenses for 2025-2026.....			
\$93,172			

- We have provided estimates, but the amount you actually spend for academic supplies, personal expenses, or transportation depends on your spending choices.
- Please keep in mind that all campus activities are open to all students and included as part of the billed activity fee.
- Books and academic supplies: Swarthmore College [provides required books as part of the cost of tuition](#). You should be prepared to purchase any additional non-required academic supplies when you arrive on campus. We suggest you visit our [Campus and Community Bookstore's website](#) for information about new, used, and rented book possibilities.
- Travel expenses: No advance money or reimbursement will be provided to you by the College. You and your family should be prepared to pay for those costs.

COLLEGE HEALTH INSURANCE FOR AIDED STUDENTS

All students are enrolled in the Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) annually.

You may opt out of the plan if you meet the requirements of the College and provide proof of other insurance. Students who receive Swarthmore College Scholarship support and who enroll on time with the College's plan are eligible for an automatic cost reduction ranging 25-100%. The Worth Health Center will send a notice about coverage for the upcoming year each spring. Visit the [Worth Health Center's website](#) to read about coverage, or to opt out of the College's plan by documenting your coverage under your family's plan by the designated deadline.

EXPECTED FAMILY RESOURCES

EXPECTED PARENT CONTRIBUTION

Parents are expected to contribute toward college costs. The expected parent contribution is based upon [our analysis of your family's financial need](#). Our need analysis includes basic factors such as cost of living, family size, and taxes, as well as special circumstances like the cost of unusually high out-of-pocket medical expenses, elder care and child care expenses, and parents' repayment of their own college loans. The parent contribution will also take into account your family's current assets as of the date your financial aid application is completed.

STUDENT SUMMER EARNINGS EXPECTED CONTRIBUTION

We expect first-year students to have saved \$2,000 from their summer earnings and continuing students to have saved \$2,500 to help with their educational expenses.

The College cannot increase your scholarship eligibility if your summer earnings fall short of the stated expectations. This expectation is required even if you cannot find a job, cannot save enough, attend classes, choose not to work, choose to take a low-paying or volunteer position, or you are unable to work. You may be able to replace unearned summer funds by obtaining an outside scholarship, borrowing through the [Federal Direct Loan Program](#) or by working more during the academic year. Anyone with questions or concerns about this should reach out by emailing finaid@swarthmore.edu.

EXPECTED STUDENT ASSET CONTRIBUTION

All student assets, presently liquid or not, are expected to be available for college.

You will be expected to contribute at least 25% of your originally reported assets each year you are at Swarthmore, regardless of how and when you choose to spend those resources.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR AID PACKAGE

You will notice that the amount of financial aid we offer is equal to your need as we have assessed it. Most often, aid is a combination of scholarship and a campus job opportunity. In most cases, the first \$2,500 of need is met with a campus job opportunity. Any need beyond that is met through one or more of the following sources:

- A Swarthmore College Scholarship
- A grant through your state scholarship program
- A Federal Pell Grant or Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)
- Other national, regional, or community-based scholarships



SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

Swarthmore College Scholarship

Swarthmore College Scholarship is “gift aid” from the College that need not be repaid. One half of your Swarthmore Scholarship will appear as a credit on your College bill each semester. Scholarships are supported with the College’s endowed, restricted, or general funds. Many of these funds were provided by generous alumni and friends of the College, and you may be asked to provide a brief profile of your interests and activities for your donor. Each spring, your family will be required to reapply for financial aid so that your continued financial need can be assessed. Returning students must complete their financial aid by the priority deadline of December 1, or the standard deadline of March 1. Students completing by December 1, will be notified of their aid decision in late May. Students completing by March 1 will be notified late in June. Students are considered for Swarthmore College Scholarship support while enrolled full time and over the duration of eight semesters. The number of semesters for which a transfer student is eligible is determined at the time of admission.

Federal Pell Grant

Federal Pell Grant eligibility is determined by the federal government’s need analysis. The FAFSA completion process helps to inform us about your eligibility for the Pell Grant and other federal aid. Once you receive the results of your FAFSA application, the Federal Student Aid Report (SAR) will be emailed to you. If you receive Pell Grant funds, you may need to complete an additional step called [verification](#). If your Pell Grant eligibility changes after your information is verified, we will adjust your Swarthmore College Scholarship so that your overall scholarship/grant support remains the same. One half of the Pell Grant will appear as a credit on your College bill each semester. Students who do not submit the FAFSA form on time or who do not respond to requests for additional information and complete [verification](#) will not receive Swarthmore College Scholarship support in place of federal funding.

Federal Tax Information (FTI)

Federal Tax Information (FTI) is data provided automatically from the IRS with your consent and approval for use when completing your FAFSA.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG)

SEOG is offered to eligible students from our limited federal allocation.

State Grants

State Grants from the following states may be used at Swarthmore: [Massachusetts](#), [Pennsylvania](#), [Vermont](#), and [West Virginia](#). Any amount shown on your financial aid decision letter is an estimate of your eligibility for state support. **Each state determines your actual eligibility.** If your state grant eligibility changes after your information is verified, we will adjust your Swarthmore College Scholarship so that your overall scholarship/grant support remains the same. One half of the state grant will appear as a credit on your College bill each semester. Students who miss their state’s application deadline or who do not respond to requests for additional information will not receive Swarthmore College Scholarship funding in place of state funding.

Other Resources

Other resources may include state rehabilitation benefits or tuition grants from parents' employers. If you receive one of these benefits, but it is not listed on our financial aid decision letter, or if you receive an amount different from what was reported, please let us know so that benefit can be factored into our aid decision. Please keep in mind that outside benefit aid cannot replace parental contribution, since that figure represents parental capacity to contribute from their income and assets. These amounts will reduce Swarthmore College Scholarship funds dollar for dollar. Funds obtained through crowdfunding platforms or public solicitation may affect your financial aid decision.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT ON CAMPUS

The [Student Employment Office \(SEO\)](#) is available throughout the academic year. Please review their website for important information and policies.

All students who work on campus are required to complete [federal work eligibility forms](#). First-year students who wish to work on campus should attend the student employment orientation session. Work-aided students will be given hiring priority over non-work-aided students during the beginning of the fall semester. Please note that working is not a requirement. All student employment earnings are paid directly to students via direct deposit for the hours they worked on a bi-weekly basis. The 2024–25 student wage rates are as follows (effective July 1, 2024):

Pay Level 1 = \$15.00/hour

Pay Level 2 = \$15.75/hour

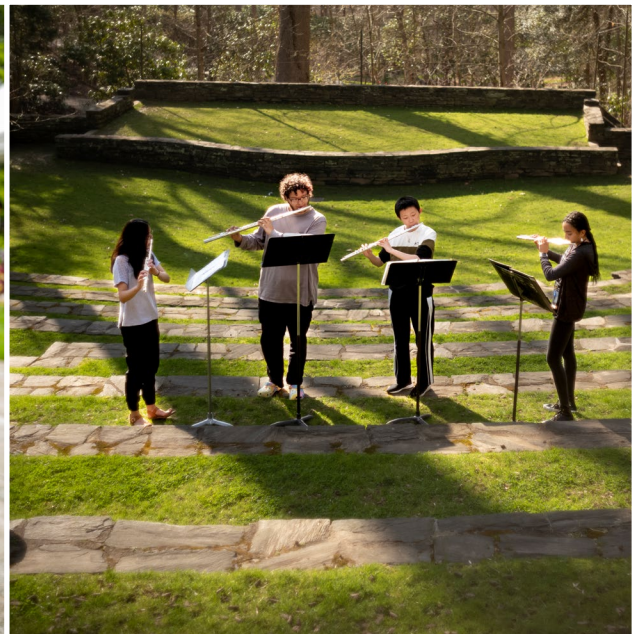
Pay Level 3 = \$16.50/hour



OUTSIDE SCHOLARSHIPS

In June, first-year students will receive a survey via email from the Financial Aid Office. Outside scholarships are required to be reported via this tool. We will update your financial aid decision and notify the Student Accounts Office that you are expecting these funds. If these amounts should change, please notify the Financial Aid Office immediately.

If your outside scholarship funds exceed the combined total of your expected summer earnings contribution and your work aid expectation, then the remaining outside scholarship funds may be used towards your expected family contribution. Swarthmore Scholarship will only be reduced should your outside scholarship funds, in addition to other outside resources, exceed the total cost of attendance. This practice is done in accordance with federal rules. Please note that this treatment does not include employer tuition grants or assistance.



OFF-CAMPUS STUDY

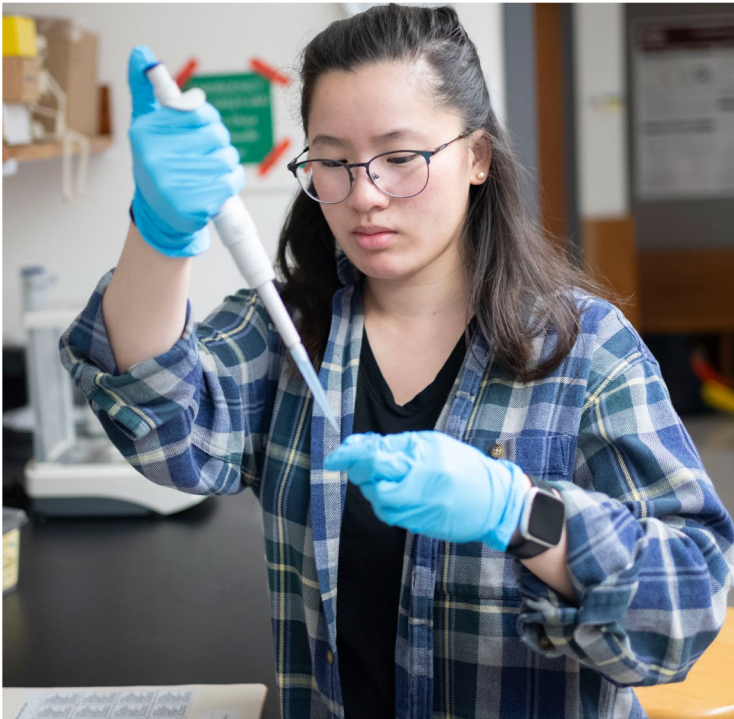
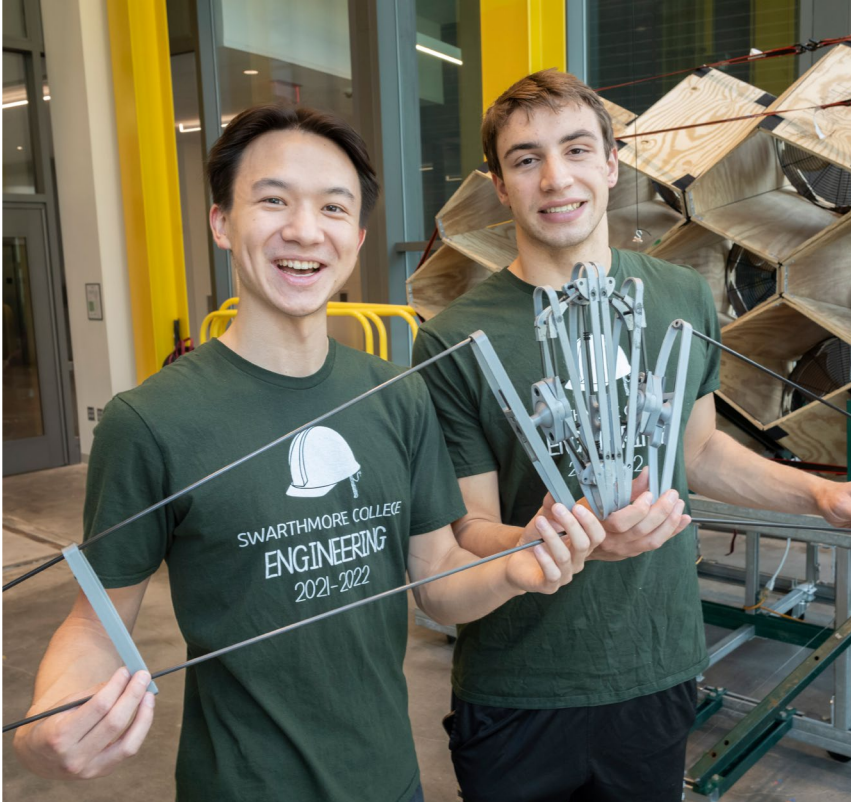
Students studying abroad through a College-approved program remain registered at Swarthmore and will maintain their financial responsibility with the College.

Students must apply for financial aid by the deadline and ensure their student account is settled in order to be approved to study outside of Swarthmore. Students should be prepared to cover some additional expenses, however more information and specific information can be found on the [Off-Campus Study](#) website. Most study abroad programs do not offer campus work opportunities to fulfill that portion of your financial aid package, so other financing options may be available.



SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

The Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy for financial aid recipients can be found on our [website](#).



FAFSA Submission Summary

The family contribution, noted on the FAFSA Submission Summary, was determined through the FAFSA application process, but will be different from the family contribution determined by Swarthmore. This federal family contribution is used to determine your eligibility for federal or state aid and will not influence our Swarthmore College Scholarship decisions.



FINANCIAL AID FROM YEAR TO YEAR

Each year, a completed financial aid application must be submitted by the deadline in order to be considered for financial aid for the upcoming academic year. Application instructions and deadlines are found on our [website](#).

FINANCIAL AID CHECKLIST

Once enrolled, each student will be granted access to a Financial Aid Checklist via mySwarthmore. This mySwarthmore checklist will serve as the only point of accurate reference for the student's financial aid application status throughout their enrollment. Note: Students will have access to both a mySwarthmore financial aid checklist and a CollegeBoard IDOC checklist, however, the mySwarthmore checklist is the more accurate checklist and is the only one to be referenced. All communication regarding missing application materials, questions, or additional required information is communicated to the student via the mySwarthmore checklist. It is the student's responsibility to share this information with the appropriate parent or guardian.

Application documents must be uploaded and will not be accepted if mailed, emailed, faxed, or dropped off. Domestic students will utilize the College Board IDOC service to upload financial aid documentation. International students will utilize their mySwarthmore financial aid portal to upload financial aid documentation. All students will monitor the Financial Aid Office's receipt of their uploads via their MySwarthmore financial aid checklist. There are two deadlines:

COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED BY THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE	FINANCIAL AID DECISION RELEASED TO THE FAMILY
<p>December 1</p> <p><i>*We recommend applying by this deadline if you plan to utilize the College's payment plan program.</i></p>	<p>Late May (following year)</p>
<p>March 1</p>	<p>Late June</p>

A student's financial aid package may change from year to year. Below are a few (not all) factors that can affect the student's aid decision year to year:

- The student's sibling(s) enrolls in an undergraduate program
- Increases and decreases in the student's family's income
- Changes in the student's family's circumstances

DEPENDENCY STATUS

A student's dependency is set at the time of admission for institutional aid purposes, and it will remain throughout the length of the degree program, regardless of the length of time the student remains in the degree program.

DIVORCED/SEPARATED PARENTS

The College expects that parents will pay from current or future resources what they have been determined to be able to pay. Although we cannot increase our scholarship aid to fill the gap if a parent declines their responsibility, students may be able to borrow. Let us know in writing if you wish to borrow by emailing scloans@swarthmore.edu.

RECONSIDERATION REQUEST

Requests for reconsideration of financial aid decisions will be considered upon receipt of new information or a change in circumstances that has impacted a family financially and beyond their control. Please see our [website](#) for more information on this formal process.

Requests for reconsideration for returning students are considered under the same circumstances for students up to their seventh semester of enrollment.

TAXATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS/GRANTS

Scholarships or grants received in a calendar year in excess of tuition and the student activity fee are considered by the IRS to be taxable and must be reported to the IRS as part of the annual income tax return filing.

NET PRICE CALCULATOR

We offer the [Net Price Calculator](#) to help some prospective students with an estimate of the financial aid they might receive and an estimate of the net price to be paid by the family. The Net Price Calculator provides best estimates for students whose biological parents are together, do not receive self-employment income, and live and earn inside the United States. The results of the Net Price Calculator are for informational purposes only and are not a guarantee of financial aid, which is determined ultimately by the College. The Net Price Calculator has certain limitations that may impact your results. Please carefully review the information outlined on our [website](#) before utilizing this tool.

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE PAYMENT PLAN

The [Swarthmore College Payment Plan](#) provides a flexible, interest-free, monthly payment option for tuition, fees, housing, and food.

Enrollment in this program takes place each semester with three separate plan duration options available. The first installment payment (plus a \$35 application fee) is due at the time of enrollment. Students with past due account balances may not be eligible for participation. This program is managed by the Student Accounts Office. For additional information please visit the [Student Accounts Office's website](#).

Enrollment for the Payment Plan is online. Please visit the [payment plan website](#) for further information.



STUDENT AND PARENT LOANS

[Federal Direct Loans \(Students\)](#)

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.

[See our website for more about this Federal Direct Loan.](#)

- Up to \$5,500 available to freshmen
- Up to \$6,500 available to sophomores
- Up to \$7,500 available to juniors and seniors

[Applying For A Federal Direct Loan](#)

Complete a [2025–26 Federal FAFSA application](#).

Incoming students:

We will email you Federal Direct Loan application instructions late in May, and you will apply for that loan through our website.

Previous borrowers:

We will process your loan for the amount you requested on the College Board CSS/PROFILE. To change that amount, please send your request to: SCLoans@swarthmore.edu

Continuing students who have not previously borrowed:

Please visit our [federal loan application website](#). Prior to the disbursement of their first loan, student borrowers are required to complete both:

- [Master Promissory Note](#)
- [Loan Entrance Counseling](#)

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

For more information, we please visit the [federal student aid website](#).

[Federal Direct PLUS Loans \(Parents\)](#)

The Federal Direct PLUS Loan is a long-term, low-interest educational loan for parents. For more information visit the [federal student aid website](#).

- The U.S. Department of Education is the lender.
- The borrower must not have an adverse credit history.
- The maximum loan amount is the student's cost of attendance (determined by the school) minus any other financial aid received.

[Applying For A Federal Direct PLUS Loan](#)

Complete a [2025–26 Federal FAFSA application](#).

Visit [the federal student loan website](#) and sign in using parent's information.

If approved, the Federal Direct PLUS Loan will be disbursed in halves at the beginning of each semester.

If denied, additional unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan funds become available to students at their request, up to:

- \$4,000 for first or second year
- \$5,000 for third or fourth year

OUR OFFICE IS HAPPY TO ASSIST YOU.

We work with students and their families starting with your initial contact with Swarthmore during the admissions process, and continuing throughout your time at the College.

We understand that the financial aid process can feel challenging, and our team is here to help. We are ready to answer questions, review application information, and prepare reviews of your files to help you feel more comfortable with the process.

We can be reached by:

Phone: (610) 328-8358

Email: finaid@swarthmore.edu.

The best way to schedule an appointment with our office is to utilize our [online scheduler](#) where you will have the option to set up a meeting time with us via phone, Zoom, or in person.

[Meet the Financial Aid Staff.](#)

