



# 2011 GUIDE TO FINANCIAL AID


**Ai** The Art Institute  
of Michigan<sup>SM</sup>

CREATE TOMORROW

# Now that you're thinking about your creative future, it's time to look into financial aid and plan for your education. This guide is a great place to begin.

We will help you navigate the process of applying for the financial aid you may qualify for, and help you explore and understand the options you should consider, like grants, loans, and scholarships.

Once you're familiar with what's out there, be sure to work with our dedicated Student Financial Aid Officers. They can help answer all of your questions, and they'll be there with you every step of the way.

 **What's this?** We've included these helpful markers whenever related information can be found in a different section of the Guide to Financial Aid—so you can quickly find what you're looking for.

Understanding financial aid  
**page 2**

Researching your options  
**page 4**

How do I get started?  
**page 6**

How do I maintain my financial aid once I'm enrolled?  
**page 8**

Completing the FAFSA form  
**page 10**

Federal government loans  
**page 14**

Taking advantage of tax benefits  
**page 16**

Additional information  
**page 18**

Frequently asked questions  
**page 20**

Financial aid at our school  
**page 24**

Student consumer information  
**page 38**



## Understanding financial aid

### **Financial aid is more than just loans.**

At The Art Institutes schools, we know that paying for your education can be challenging. But there are a variety of financial resources available to help qualified students meet their costs. And every year, many students and their families take advantage of one or more of the resources listed in this guide.

Student loans are the most common tool people use to pay for their education. Loans allow you to establish valuable bank credit, which can be useful for the rest of your life. However, if borrowing is a new experience for you, it's natural to feel somewhat apprehensive.

### **Don't worry—we're here to help.**

A good percentage of your fellow students are going through this very same process. And our staff is ready to help you every step of the way. We'll work with you to determine the best plan for you and your family.

**Important:** It's vital to apply for financial aid—and to explore all of your options—as soon as possible after enrolling at an Art Institutes school, to make sure you're able to pursue all available funding for which you may qualify.

### The application process

To start with, be sure to download and complete a FAFSA on the Web Worksheet, available at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).

You'll also need to have your federal 2010 1040 tax return completed. And if you're a dependent, for federal financial aid purposes, you'll need a copy of your parents' 2010 1040 tax return as well.



See page 12 to determine your dependency status for the purpose of financial aid.

Next, contact Student Financial Services and schedule some time to meet with a Student Financial Aid Officer. They're specialists who can help you complete all the necessary forms and put together a financial plan for meeting your financial obligations. They'll prepare a worksheet that outlines your estimated educational costs as well as possible resources to cover those costs.

### Options for financing your education may include:

- Family financial resources
- Part-time employment
- Grants
- Scholarships
- Loans
- If necessary, an individualized payment plan

### Just what is a FAFSA, anyway?

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the standard form used by the federal government to determine your financial aid eligibility. If you haven't already registered for a PIN number from the U.S. Department of Education, do so as soon as possible at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov).

This will enable you to begin completing the 2011–12 FAFSA form, available at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).



See page 10 for more about completing the FAFSA form.

Researching your options

How do I get started?

How do I maintain my financial aid once I'm enrolled?

Completing the FAFSA form

Federal government loans

Taking advantage of tax benefits

Additional information

Frequently asked questions

Financial aid at our school


Student consumer information



## Researching your options

### Research all sources of financial aid.

Grants, loans, and scholarships could all be available to you, but to know what you qualify for, it's a good idea to meet with a Student Financial Aid Officer at this Art Institutes school. You'll receive guidance and insight into the application process, and get leads about opportunities you may pursue to help fund your education.

 See page 24 for an overview of available aid.

## 2 Researching your options

How do I get  
started?

How do I maintain  
my financial aid  
once I'm  
enrolled?

Completing the  
FAFSA form

Federal  
government  
loans

Taking  
advantage of  
tax benefits

Additional  
information

Frequently  
asked questions

Financial aid  
at our school

Student  
consumer  
information

### You're all about creativity. So get creative in your search for financial aid.

Many students don't realize they may qualify for financial assistance based on a variety of factors, like academic achievement; religious, ethnic, or racial affiliation; community service; or membership in certain organizations.

Financial aid is more than just loans. Here are some of the many resources you should consider as you seek to fund your creative education:

- Churches, community organizations, or fraternal groups that may offer financial assistance or scholarships.
- Your employer or, if applicable, your parents' employers, professional associations, or labor unions that offer aid.
- Students with physical or emotional disabilities may qualify for financial aid through state vocational rehabilitation programs.
- Veterans—and in some cases their dependents—may qualify for educational assistance through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Scholarships may be available at this Art Institutes school.

### Check the web!

Several very popular websites that offer helpful resources for students and their families seeking additional resources of financial aid include:

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)

[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)




## How do I get started?

### Take advantage of our expertise.

Have questions? You're not alone. Our skilled Student Financial Aid Officers are eager to help you with your application. Just give them a call or drop by the office.

### How do I apply for financial aid?

1. Complete and return a school admissions application.
2. Upon the acceptance of your application, you'll receive an enrollment packet containing the appropriate financial aid applications, instructions for completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), additional forms and instructions, and other information. The fastest, most direct way to get started is by applying online at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).
3. Complete the financial aid application forms. About one week after you submit the FAFSA on the web, the school will receive an electronic Institutional Student Information Report (ISIR) from the federal financial aid processor when you indicate the school as a choice on your FAFSA.

 See page 10 for more about completing the FAFSA form.

Understanding financial aid

Researching your options

# 3 How do I get started?

How do I maintain my financial aid once I'm enrolled?

Completing the FAFSA form

Federal government loans


Taking advantage of tax benefits

Additional information

Frequently asked questions


Financial aid at our school

Student consumer information

 See page 38 for this school's FAFSA code.

We'll review your application using the standard federal system process to determine your eligibility for financial aid. A Student Financial Aid Officer will work with you and your family to devise a Student Financial Plan to help cover your educational expenses. This will be based on financial aid eligibility and family circumstances. Our Student Financial Plans make a big difference in helping you to complete your education.

4. Remember to reapply for financial aid every year since the amounts and types of aid for which you are eligible may change in subsequent years. Application deadlines are announced annually during the Winter Term.

 Continuing students, see page 8 for more about maintaining your financial aid eligibility.

**Important:** Our professionals in Student Financial Services are always available to assist students and parents. We'll help you when you apply for financial aid the first time as a new student, and we'll help when it's time to reapply when you're a continuing student.

## What if I don't receive my financial aid by the start of classes?

Financial aid processing takes time, but if your aid applications and forms have been properly submitted, the school can pre-credit any anticipated aid to your student account. This enables you to start school on time by deferring costs covered by financial aid until the aid is received. To expedite the financial aid process, apply online whenever possible. And remember that you must reapply each year to reestablish your eligibility for financial aid.

## Are there any payment plan options?

The Art Institutes offers low-interest payment plan options that enable payments to be made on a monthly basis while attending the school. Our Student Financial Aid Officers review payment plan options with students while reviewing their financial aid awards to help identify the best possible combination of financial resources to meet their needs.



## How do I maintain my financial aid once I'm enrolled?

### **Application is a yearly process.**

You need to reapply for financial aid each year. Application deadlines are announced annually—usually in January when the new FAFSA is available. Even if you applied for aid last year, you must fill out a new FAFSA for each year you're requesting aid. The Student Financial Aid Officers at this Art Institutes school are ready to help you through the application process.

### **How do I maintain my eligibility for financial aid?**

***This is a key point!*** After you enroll at the school and accept financial aid, you agree to take on specific responsibilities and retain certain rights. Here are some pointers to help you maintain your eligibility for financial aid:

1. Take the full load of classes that are scheduled for you. Aid may be reduced or canceled if your class schedule is reduced.
2. Keep copies of tax returns and other records. Federal regulations require random verification of financial aid applications, so you and/or your parents may be asked to provide copies of your tax returns or to demonstrate that you were not required to file a return.



- Understanding financial aid
- Researching your options
- How do I get started?

## 4 How do I maintain my financial aid once I'm enrolled?

- Completing the FAFSA form
- Federal government loans
- Taking advantage of tax benefits
- Additional information
- Frequently asked questions
- Financial aid at our school
- Student consumer information

3. Maintain satisfactory academic progress toward your educational goals as defined in the school catalog and student handbook.

4. Notify Student Financial Services if you receive any financial assistance that is not reported on your Student Financial Plan, including any outside scholarships and private loans. Be aware that when you apply for financial aid, the assistance offered is subject to final funding authorization established by the U.S. Congress and state legislatures.

5. Reapply on time, accurately, and complete any applications and forms that are requested.

6. Stay up to date! Regulatory changes may bring about new rules and eligibility for financial aid, which could change your awards.

### If I withdraw from school, will I receive a tuition refund?

If you withdraw for any reason, you may be entitled to a partial refund of tuition and fees paid. The refund policy outlined in the school catalog and on the enrollment agreement determines whether any refund is due.

If you receive financial aid and you withdraw from the school with the intention of returning, you must notify Student Financial Services in order to request financial assistance for future terms.



## Completing the FAFSA form


### The first step toward determining how much aid you're eligible for.

To fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, find a quiet place to work and give yourself time to complete the form without interruption. Get organized by gathering your personal and family financial records.

**Important:** Remember that federal financial aid is limited, so apply as soon as possible after enrollment. You may complete the FAFSA online at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).

### Which financial records will I need?

You'll need your 2010 1040 tax return and maybe your parents' as well, but only if you're considered to be a dependent student for purposes of federal financial aid.

 See page 12 to determine your dependency status for the purpose of financial aid.



Understanding financial aid

Researching your options

How do I get started?

How do I maintain my financial aid once I'm enrolled?

## 5 Completing the FAFSA form

You may also need:

- Checkbook stubs
- Savings account and investment statements
- Information relating to income including wages, dividends, Social Security benefits, welfare and other government payments, alimony or child support, Veterans Affairs benefits, and disability benefits, etc.

If you've not yet filed your tax return, try to do so before you apply for financial aid. If you can't find last year's return, call Student Financial Services at the school, and we'll help you get a copy from the IRS. It's important to keep a copy of your tax return because you may need it as proof that the income indicated on your FAFSA is correct.

Involve other family members who may need to provide information. If you're considered a dependent for federal financial aid purposes, not only will you need a copy of your parents' tax return, but your parent(s) will need to complete the parent section of the form as well.

Federal government loans

Taking advantage of tax benefits

Additional information

Frequently asked questions

Financial aid at our school

Student consumer information



## Completing the FAFSA form continued

### Determining dependency status

For the 2011–12 financial aid award year, the U.S. Department of Education uses the following questions to determine whether a student is dependent or independent for the purpose of applying for federal student aid.

- Were you born before January 1, 1988?
- Are you married?
- Do you have children who receive more than half of their support from you?
- Do you have dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you?
- Are you an orphan?
- Are you, or were you since age 13, a ward of the court?
- Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces?
- Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?
- Are you a homeless youth as defined on the FAFSA?

If you answer “NO” to all these questions, you are considered to be dependent for the purposes of applying for federal financial aid. You will need to have your parents complete the parent section of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Understanding financial aid

Researching your options

How do I get started?

How do I maintain my financial aid once I'm enrolled?

If you answer "YES" to any of these questions, you are considered to be independent for the purposes of federal financial aid. Your parents' information is not required. Please see the FAFSA instructions for more details on dependency status. A Student Financial Aid Officer can also assist you.

### Is the information I send confidential?

When you apply for financial aid, you are required to give the school detailed financial information; this may include a copy of your federal income tax return as well as that of your parents.

While this information is necessary to verify application statements, we appreciate the sensitive nature of individual tax returns. We hold all financial information you entrust to us in strictest confidence. You should also know that each school is bound by the provisions of the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, which regulates the release of any personal information.

### Tips for filling out your FAFSA form

Complete the FAFSA on the Web Worksheet before starting the online application.

- Follow the online instructions carefully. The website is designed to assist you through the process.
- You should feel free to call the school if you are unsure how to answer specific questions on the form.
- Remember to sign the form electronically (e-sign). A parent must also e-sign if he or she contributed information to the form.
- When applying online, you (and maybe your parent) will need to create and use a personal identification number (PIN) to e-sign the form. You'll find instructions for creating a PIN at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).

## 5 Completing the FAFSA form

Federal government loans

Taking advantage of tax benefits

Additional information

Frequently asked questions

Financial aid at our school

Student consumer information



## Federal government loans

### Multi-year loans can help you manage your paperwork.

Federal loans include the Federal Direct Student Loan and the Federal Direct Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (Federal Direct PLUS). There are separate applications for each. Student borrowers will be required to sign a Federal Direct Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN); parent borrowers must sign a Federal Direct PLUS Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN). These are multiyear promissory notes that allow you to receive multiple loans without having to complete additional promissory notes each year.

Contact a Student Financial Aid Officer to learn more about these loans and for help in applying for federal loans, or visit [www.direct.ed.gov](http://www.direct.ed.gov).

### How do I apply for the Federal Direct Student Loan?

You may complete the Federal Direct Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN) online via the U.S. Department of Education's Direct Loan website at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov). Our Student Financial Services staff will determine how large a loan you are eligible for after reviewing your completed FAFSA form.



- Understanding financial aid
- Researching your options
- How do I get started?
- How do I maintain my financial aid once I'm enrolled?
- Completing the FAFSA form

### What is the MPN?

The MPN is a contract that you must sign when you receive a Subsidized or Unsubsidized Federal Direct Student Loan. This note will work as a multiyear promissory note, allowing you to receive multiple loans without requiring you to complete additional promissory notes.

### What do I do next?

If you already have a valid MPN on file with the Direct Loan Program, notify us and we will verify that it can be used at our school.

### How do I apply for the Federal Direct Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (Federal Direct PLUS)?

To apply for a Federal Direct PLUS Loan, your parent (only one need apply) must complete the Federal Direct PLUS Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN) at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov). Eligible parents who qualify may apply for Federal Direct PLUS Loans to help a dependent child attend school. Since Federal Direct PLUS Loans require a credit check, a Student Financial Aid Officer can assist you with that process. Based on your eligibility and the amount needed to pay for school, our Student Financial Services staff will recommend an appropriate loan amount.

### Tips for filling out these forms:

- Carefully read the instructions and general information before you complete any form.
- Answer all questions; then use your PIN to e-sign the form.
- You will need two references who have separate and complete addresses.
- For references, we recommend listing your parents first, then any brothers, sisters, or adult relatives who live on their own. You may also include adult friends.
- If you don't have a driver's license, just complete that box by entering "None."
- **Important:** Read the promissory note before you sign and date it. It is a legal document requiring you to pay back the money you borrow.

## 6 Federal government loans

- Taking advantage of tax benefits
- Additional information
- Frequently asked questions
- Financial aid at our school
- Student consumer information



## Taking advantage of tax benefits

### Don't overlook possible tax savings related to higher education.

You or your parents may qualify for various tax benefits available to students enrolled in higher education. These include:

- American Opportunity Credit
- Lifetime Learning Credit
- Tuition and fees tax deduction
- Student loan interest deduction
- Withdrawals from IRAs

Learn more about educational tax benefits by obtaining the IRS Publication 970 "Tax Benefits for Education" at [www.irs.ustreas.gov](http://www.irs.ustreas.gov). (Note that Congress may change these benefits at any time.)

### What are the tax benefits for students?

To make postsecondary education more affordable, The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 provided for Hope Scholarship Credits, Lifetime Learning Credits, and other tax benefits for students and parents. These benefits, called the American Opportunity Tax Credit, were enhanced as part of the Economic Stimulus Bill of 2009.



Whether or not you or your parents take advantage of these benefits depends on individual circumstances. The following information is not tax advice or counsel, but is intended to help you to initiate conversations with your tax advisor.

[Consult your tax advisor to learn more about tax benefits for higher education.](#)

**American Opportunity Credit (formerly the Hope Scholarship)\***

A credit against tax paid or owed, the American Opportunity Credit helps to make the first four years of postsecondary education more affordable. Tax filers may be eligible for a tax credit of up to \$2,500 of qualified education expenses paid.

**Lifetime Learning Credit\***

A credit against tax paid or owed, the Lifetime Learning Credit benefits students who are not able to claim the American Opportunity Credit. A family may claim up to \$2,000 of qualified expenses for all students per tax year.

**Tuition and Fees Tax Deduction\***

Up to \$4,000 of tuition and fees may be deducted from the gross income of taxpayers who do not qualify for the American Opportunity Credit or the

Lifetime Learning Credit. The deduction may be taken for tuition and fees required for attendance at a postsecondary institution, and may be taken even if the taxpayer does not itemize deductions.

**Student Loan Interest Deduction**

A student loan borrower may take a tax deduction for interest paid in the tax year. This deduction can be taken even if the taxpayer does not itemize deductions. The maximum deduction is \$2,500.

**Withdrawals from IRAs**

Students and their parents can take withdrawals from IRAs without penalty when the funds are used for qualified education expenses.

*\* Important: Tax benefits available via these programs are subject to income limits. Please consult a tax advisor or the Internal Revenue Service for more information.*

Understanding financial aid

Researching your options

How do I get started?

How do I maintain my financial aid once I'm enrolled?

Completing the FAFSA form

Federal government loans

**Taking advantage of tax benefits**

Additional information

Frequently asked questions

Financial aid at our school

Student consumer information



## Additional information

### We're here to support you.

At The Art Institutes schools, we're here to help you every step of the way as you grow and develop your creative talents. We start by guiding you through the financial aid and admissions processes. We follow up with academic support as you attend class and build an interview-ready portfolio. And we're committed to assisting you down the road—helping you look for new and exciting job opportunities after you've graduated.

Information regarding costs, refund policies, programs, credit transfer, accrediting, approvals, licensing, special facilities and services, graduation, and placement rates is available through the Admissions Department, in the school catalog, and in your enrollment agreement.

### Privacy notice

This school is in compliance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Additional information regarding FERPA can be found in the school catalog, the student handbook, or through the Admissions Department. This act explains your rights and procedures regarding inspection and review of your

education records, correction of inaccurate or misleading information, consent to disclose information, institutional criteria for defining school officials, what constitutes a legitimate educational interest, and filing complaints with the U.S. Department of Education.

This information is available by request to your parents, if they meet the definition of parents under FERPA.

### **Institutional security policies and crime statistics**

Available through the Admissions Department, this information includes a breakdown of crimes occurring on school premises that have been reported to local police agencies or to school security. It also includes school policies and programs for reporting crimes, law enforcement and security on school premises, drug and alcohol offenses, prevention of sex crimes, and other information related to school crime and security.

Under federal regulations, a student convicted for any offense, during a period of enrollment for which the student was receiving Title IV, HEA program funds, under any federal or state law involving

possession or sale of illegal drugs, will result in the loss of eligibility for any Title IV, HEA grant, loan or work-study assistance.

When a student receives a federal loan the information will be reported to the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS). NSLDS is accessible by student loan guaranty agencies, student loan lenders, and postsecondary institutions determined to be authorized users of the data system.

### **Student “Right to Know”**

Information that outlines our graduation and placement rates is available through the Admissions Department.

### **Student consumer information**

More consumer information about our school—including detailed information about financial aid, academics, student services, and career services—is available online.



**Turn to Section 11 for the URL of our online guide and a preview of our student consumer information.**

Understanding financial aid

Researching your options

How do I get started?

How do I maintain my financial aid once I’m enrolled?

Completing the FAFSA form

Federal government loans

Taking advantage of tax benefits



**Additional information**

Frequently asked questions

Financial aid at our school

Student consumer information



## Frequently asked questions

### When should I apply for financial aid?

As soon as you enroll at the school. That's all it takes to be considered. After you're enrolled, annual deadline dates for reapplying for financial aid will be posted for continuing students.

 See page 8 for tips on maintaining your financial aid as a continuing student.

### How much financial aid will I receive?

Most financial aid is based on individual economic circumstances. We determine these by analyzing the financial information you provide on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form available at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).

The FAFSA is a standard form used to determine your eligibility for many financial aid programs, including:

- Federal grant programs
- Federal loan programs
- The Federal Work-Study program (FWS)
- Some state student assistance programs

We compute the difference between the total cost of your education and the amount that you and your family are expected to contribute based on a federally defined calculation. Once this is complete, we can determine the amount of financial aid for which you're eligible.

## How do you calculate whether I'm eligible for financial aid?

1. We estimate the cost of your education based on direct and indirect costs.

### Examples of direct costs include:

- Tuition
- Fees
- Some school supplies

### Examples of indirect costs include:

- Food
- Transportation to and from school
- Personal expenses and supplies

We consider both direct and indirect costs when helping you budget adequate financial support during your enrollment at the school. Standard budget figures (available for review in Student Financial Services) are used to estimate indirect costs, based on where you will live when you attend the school.

Housing expenses may be considered direct or indirect costs, depending on your living arrangements. Housing Services can provide you with information on school-sponsored housing, as well as independent apartments.

2. We add up all of your available resources for educational costs. These resources include:

- Family financial resources
- Scholarships
- Federal grants and loans for which you are eligible
- State grants and loans for which you are eligible
- Private loans
- Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits
- Work programs

3. We subtract all of the available resources from the total estimated cost of your education. The amount of direct costs not covered by available resources is the amount that can be covered through the student financial planning process.

## When will I receive my financial aid?

Your Student Financial Plan provides you with a schedule of aid payments from each aid program you use. These payments are usually made in equal installments for each term in each academic year. Once all the required paperwork is accurately completed, submitted, and you start school, your financial aid is automatically credited to your account at the beginning of each term. Most other aid is also sent to the school electronically.

Understanding financial aid

Researching your options

How do I get started?

How do I maintain my financial aid once I'm enrolled?

Completing the FAFSA form

Federal government loans

Taking advantage of tax benefits

Additional information

## 9 Frequently asked questions

Financial aid at our school

Student consumer information



## Frequently asked questions continued

### Are there any eligibility requirements to receive federal student aid?

Yes. Applicants must:

- Demonstrate financial need, except for some loan programs.
- Not be in default on a prior educational loan or owe repayment on a prior grant.
- Possess a high school diploma or a General Educational Development (GED) certificate.
- Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a regular student working toward a degree or certificate in an eligible program.
- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen.
- Have a valid Social Security number.
- Make satisfactory academic progress.
- Sign a statement of educational purpose and a certification statement on overpayment and default, both found in the FAFSA.
- Register with the Selective Service, if required.
- Not have been convicted of certain drug violations.

### Is there anyone who cannot apply for federal student aid?

No, as long as they meet the requirements to qualify for federal student aid, detailed above. The Art Institutes does not discriminate on the basis of age, creed, ancestry, religion, sex, disability, sexual orientation, race, color, or national or ethnic origin in any of their programs or services.

This includes scholarship and loan programs, as well as administrative, educational, and admissions policies. It also includes housing, counseling, financial assistance, and student employment services.

Questions about this policy, which is governed by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and subsequent regulations, should be directed to the school or to the Director of the Office for Civil Rights of the Department of Education in Washington, D.C. 20202.



See page 24 for more information about individual aid programs.

Understanding financial aid

Researching your options

How do I get started?

How do I maintain my financial aid once I'm enrolled?

Completing the FAFSA form

Federal government loans

Taking advantage of tax benefits

Additional information



## Frequently asked questions

Financial aid at our school

Student consumer information



## Financial aid at our school

### We're here to help you understand your options.

Set up a meeting with a Student Financial Aid Officer to learn more about all of our sources for financial aid.

### Federal Grants

#### Federal Pell Grant


Description: Federal Pell Grants are "gifts" of assistance to students who meet financial standards set by the federal government. They are available to students who demonstrate financial need, based on a federal formula, and who have not already received a bachelor's degree. The amount available varies from year to year based on Congressional appropriations. Grants for 2011–12 for full-time, eligible students range from \$555 to \$5,550 per academic year. Part-time students who are eligible for grants receive smaller amounts. Please contact Student Financial Services for current Pell Grant ranges and to discuss your eligibility for that grant. Grants do not have to be repaid.

How to apply: Visit [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The school will receive an Institutional Student Information Report (ISIR) from the federal financial aid processor when you indicate the school as a choice on your FAFSA.

 See page 38 for our FAFSA code.

The ISIR establishes your eligibility for the Federal Pell Grant and authorizes the school to credit your tuition account with Federal Pell Grant payments. If you're eligible, you will be notified on your Student Financial Plan.

**How payments are made:** If we have a valid ISIR for you, we can receive your Pell Grant funds directly from the federal government. Your account is then credited with these funds before the first day of class each term. The credit is automatic as long as your financial paperwork is complete each year, you remain eligible for aid, and you officially register for classes each term.

 **Continuing students, see page 8 for more about maintaining your financial aid eligibility.**

### **Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)**

**Description:** FSEOGs are "gifts" of assistance to students. They are available to students who demonstrate exceptional financial need and who have not already received a bachelor's degree. The amount available varies and program funds are limited. Eligible students generally receive from \$200 to \$1,200 for each academic year (three quarters or two semesters). Grants through this program do not have to be repaid.

**How to apply:** Visit [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The school will receive an Institutional Student Information Report (ISIR) from the federal financial aid processor when you indicate the school as a choice on your FAFSA. The school will use the information from the ISIR to determine whether you are eligible for an FSEOG. If you're eligible, you will be notified on your Student Financial Plan.

**How payments are made:** If we have a valid ISIR for you, we can receive your FSEOG funds directly from the federal government. Your account is then credited with these funds before the first day of class each term. The credit is automatic as long as your financial paperwork is complete each year, you remain eligible for aid, and you officially register for classes each term.

Understanding financial aid

Researching your options

How do I get started?

How do I maintain my financial aid once I'm enrolled?

Completing the FAFSA form

Federal government loans

Taking advantage of tax benefits

Additional information

Frequently asked questions

# 10 Financial aid at our school

Student consumer information



## Financial aid at our school continued

### Federal Loans


#### Federal Direct Student Loan

Description: Subsidized Federal Direct Student Loans currently carry a fixed interest rate of 4.5%; the interest rate for Unsubsidized Federal Direct Student Loans is 6.8%. The program is funded through the U.S. Department of Education. Eligibility is based on financial need. If you are eligible, you may borrow once per academic year as long as all of the required paperwork has been completed. The federal government pays the interest on a Subsidized Federal Direct Student Loans while a student attends school, during the grace period, and during periods of deferment. The student is responsible for paying the interest on an Unsubsidized Federal Direct Student Loan.

Amount: Dependent students may borrow combinations of Subsidized and Unsubsidized Federal Direct Student Loans up to these maximum amounts:

- \$5,500 during the first grade level
- \$6,500 during the second grade level
- \$7,500 for the third and fourth grade levels

Independent students and dependent students whose parents cannot borrow under the Federal Direct PLUS Loan program (see the following section) may borrow the maximum annual amounts stated above, plus an annual maximum of \$4,000 in Unsubsidized Federal Direct Student Loans for the first and second grade levels, and \$5,000 in Unsubsidized Federal Direct Student Loans for the third and fourth grade levels.

 **See page 12 to determine your dependency status for the purpose of financial aid.**

A variable origination fee (up to 3%) and a variable insurance fee (up to 1%) are deducted from the amount borrowed for both Subsidized and Unsubsidized Federal Direct Student Loans. Maximum loan amounts may be reduced for loan periods less than an academic year and if the student has previous loans. Please contact Student Financial Services for the most current amounts.

**How to apply:** Visit [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and visit [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov) to complete the Federal Direct Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN). You will also need to complete Direct Loan Entrance Counseling, also available at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov). Be sure to notify your Student Financial Aid Officer that you have completed the Federal Direct Loan MPN and Entrance Counseling.

**Repayment of subsidized loans:** Repayment begins six months after you leave school or drop below half-time status. While you are in school and maintain at least half-time enrollment status, and also during the six-month grace period, the interest is subsidized by the federal government.

Understanding financial aid

Researching your options

How do I get started?

How do I maintain my financial aid once I'm enrolled?

Completing the FAFSA form

Federal government loans

Taking advantage of tax benefits

Additional information

Frequently asked questions

**10** Financial aid at our school

Student consumer information



## Financial aid at our school continued

**Repayment of unsubsidized loans:** Your first payment of principal is due six months after you leave school or drop below half-time status. You can pay the interest quarterly while you are attending school, or it can be accrued during the in-school and six-month grace periods. If it accrues, it is added to the principal when you begin to repay the loan. See your Student Financial Aid Officer to obtain a sample loan repayment schedule.

**How payments are made:** Federal Loans are sent directly to the school. The loan funds are usually automatically credited to your tuition account prior to the beginning of each term. See Student Financial Services for details. If your loan funds have not been received when you start class, we will defer payment of the school charges until the funds are received, as long as all of the paperwork has been completed.

### Federal Direct Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (Federal Direct PLUS)

**Description:** These loans are made by the U.S. Department of Education directly to parents of dependent students. Federal Direct PLUS Loans have a fixed interest rate of 7.9%. The Department of Education will require a credit evaluation to determine a parent's eligibility for this loan. A parent may borrow an amount equal to the difference between a student's educational costs and the total amount of other financial aid a student receives for each academic year. A variable origination fee (up to 3%) and a variable insurance fee (up to 1%) may be deducted from the amount borrowed.

**How to apply:** The parent who will be the borrower must complete a Federal Direct PLUS Loan Request at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov). Be sure to notify the Student Financial Aid Officers at your school that your parent has applied for a Federal Direct PLUS Loan.

**Repayment:** Repayment begins within 60 days after the loan is fully disbursed to the student account at the school. See your Student Financial Aid Officer to obtain a sample repayment plan.

**How payments are made:** The U.S. Department of Education electronically transmits loan funds to the school. The loan proceeds will automatically be transferred to the student's account; this usually occurs prior to the beginning of each term. See your Student Financial Aid Officer for more details.

### Alternative Loan Programs

The Art Institutes schools participate in several alternative loan programs. Interest rates, processing fees, eligibility requirements, and repayment terms differ for each program. Alternative loans are through private lenders and usually require a credit check and a cosigner. Student Financial Aid Officers can discuss these programs with you in more detail. Program availability and terms are subject to change. You can use alternative loans if you are eligible and need assistance beyond what is available through traditional federal or state aid programs. Contact Student Financial Services for application and eligibility requirements and a sample loan repayment schedule.

Understanding financial aid

Researching your options

How do I get started?

How do I maintain my financial aid once I'm enrolled?

Completing the FAFSA form

Federal government loans

Taking advantage of tax benefits

Additional information

Frequently asked questions

**10** Financial aid at our school

Student consumer information



## Financial aid at our school continued

### **Should I have a cosigner?**

A cosigner may help you obtain loans that you could not qualify for on your own. Some lenders require cosigners, who are responsible for repayment of a loan if you, the borrower, are unable to make payments.

Many students ask family members to be cosigners on loans. You may also consider asking friends, godparents, or even an employer to help you meet your educational goals by being a cosigner for you. It's important that your cosigner understands the legal implications of cosigning on a loan with you.

Finding the right cosigner can help you to make your educational goals a reality. Be certain that you—and your cosigner—understand the terms and payment schedule of your loans. Ask a Student Financial Aid Officer for additional information about cosigners.

Understanding financial aid

Researching your options

How do I get started?

How do I maintain my financial aid once I'm enrolled?

Completing the FAFSA form

Federal government loans

Taking advantage of tax benefits

Additional information

Frequently asked questions

**10** Financial aid at our school

Student consumer information

#### Payment Plan Options

The Art Institutes offers payment plan options that enable payments to be made on a monthly basis while attending the school. Our Student Financial Aid Officers review payment plan options with students while reviewing their financial aid awards to help identify the best possible combination of financial resources to meet their needs.

#### Federal Work-Study (FWS)

Through the Federal Work-Study program, you have the opportunity to earn part of your educational expenses by working part-time on or off school premises. A limited number of jobs are available, with priority given to students with the greatest need. The maximum a student can earn through this program is the amount of unmet need—the difference between the student's educational costs and the total amount of their other financial aid. Wages from this program may be paid directly to you as you earn them or as a credit to your school account. As with any job, several weeks may pass before you receive your first paycheck, so you will need to cover your own expenses initially. Contact Student Financial Services for more details.

#### State Student Assistance Programs

Some states offer or promote educational loans, grants, and scholarship programs funded by individual state legislatures to help students pay for higher education. The eligibility criteria, amounts, and loan repayment obligations vary according to state regulations. Student Financial Services can help you apply for the program in your state.

#### Veterans Education Act

The Veterans Education Act provides varying levels of assistance to eligible veterans, disabled veterans, and their dependents. If you are a veteran or the dependent of a veteran, contact the local Veterans Affairs office in your region, visit [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov), or visit the website listed on the back cover of this publication for more information.



## Financial aid at our school continued

### **Vocational Rehabilitation Programs**

Every state has programs to help people with physical and mental disabilities. Some states offer retraining programs for people who have been out of the job market for a length of time. Eligibility criteria and amounts vary according to state regulations. For more information, contact your local vocational rehabilitation office, unemployment office, or your state department of human resources.

### **The Art Institutes Awards, Grants, and Scholarships**

Each school of The Art Institutes may offer various scholarships, awards, and grants every year to new and continuing students. Offers may be based on program of study, attendance, financial need, academic achievement, and community-service credentials. Contact the Admissions Department to find out how to apply for these and other available regional and local scholarships, awards, and grants.

### **The Art Institutes Scholarship Competition**

Each school may award a number of these scholarships in various amounts to high school seniors and international students. Scholarship awards are based on the quality of projects submitted by students.

### **The Art Institutes Merit Awards**

New and continuing students are eligible to compete for these awards, which specifically are intended for students who exhibit evidence of merit and motivation, but who cannot enter classes or continue their program without additional financial assistance. The Art Institutes Merit Awards vary by school location and are subject to change. Merit Awards do not need to be repaid.

### **The Art Institutes National Scholarships**

Each year, The Art Institutes schools offer national scholarships to high school seniors who demonstrate a commitment to education and outstanding capabilities in their chosen area of study. Contact The Art Institutes school of your choice for additional information about the following scholarships. Amounts vary. Scholarships do not have to be repaid.

### **The Art Institutes and Americans for the Arts Poster Design Competition**

This competition is open to high school seniors. Tuition scholarships for local and national winners are awarded in varying amounts. Visit [www.artinstitutes.edu/poster](http://www.artinstitutes.edu/poster) for more information.

### **The Art Institutes Best Teen Chef Competition**

High school seniors who want to pursue a culinary education at an Art Institutes school that offers a culinary program are eligible to participate in this competition for a tuition scholarship. Visit [www.artinstitutes.edu/btc](http://www.artinstitutes.edu/btc) for more information.

Understanding financial aid

Researching your options

How do I get started?

How do I maintain my financial aid once I'm enrolled?

Completing the FAFSA form

Federal government loans

Taking advantage of tax benefits

Additional information

Frequently asked questions

**10** Financial aid at our school

Student consumer information



## Financial aid at our school continued

### **The Art Institutes Passion for Fashion Competition**

High school seniors interested in pursuing an education in Fashion Design or Fashion Marketing & Merchandising at The Art Institutes school of their choice are eligible to participate in this competition. Tuition scholarships for local and national winners are awarded in varying amounts. Visit [www.artinstitutes.edu/passionforfashion](http://www.artinstitutes.edu/passionforfashion) for more information.

### **The Art Institutes Storytellers Photography Competition**

Have a visual story to tell? Submit six of your best photos, and you could earn a tuition scholarship to The Art Institutes school of your choice that offers a photography program. The competition is open to high school seniors and graduates. Visit [www.artinstitutes.edu/photocompetition](http://www.artinstitutes.edu/photocompetition) for more information.

### **Evelyn Keedy Memorial Scholarship**

High school seniors who show dedication to their education and a desire for a creative career may apply for the Evelyn Keedy Memorial Scholarship through an Art Institutes school.

### **National Organization Scholarships for Art Institutes Students**

Students at The Art Institutes schools are eligible for scholarships awarded by several national scholastic and professional organizations. Winners are selected by committees of working professionals independent of The Art Institutes schools. Contact the Admissions Department at The Art Institutes school of your choice for details about the following scholarships. Amounts vary. Scholarships do not have to be repaid.

### **National Art Honor Society**

High school seniors who belong to the National Art Honor Society may apply for an Art Institutes National Art Honor Society Scholarship.

### **SkillsUSA**

Students who are members of SkillsUSA may compete in local, state, and national championships. Tuition scholarships are awarded to first- through third-place winners in 3-D imaging/animation, advertising design, culinary, photography, video production, and web design. Scholarships are limited and are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Information about the SkillsUSA Championships may be obtained from your local SkillsUSA chapter or at [www.skillsusa.org](http://www.skillsusa.org).

Understanding financial aid

Researching your options

How do I get started?

How do I maintain my financial aid once I'm enrolled?

Completing the FAFSA form

Federal government loans

Taking advantage of tax benefits

Additional information

Frequently asked questions

**10** Financial aid at our school

Student consumer information



## Financial aid at our school continued

### **Scholastic Art and Writing Competition**

Four \$10,000 scholarships are awarded annually by The Art Institutes to selected winners of the Scholastic Art and Writing Competition. Scholarships are limited and are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Visit [www.scholastic.com/artandwriting](http://www.scholastic.com/artandwriting) for more information.

### **Careers through Culinary Arts Program (C-CAP)**

Students enrolled in C-CAP may compete for a full-tuition scholarship for either a two-year or four-year degree at an Art Institutes school offering a culinary program. Visit [www.ccapinc.org](http://www.ccapinc.org) for more information.

### ProStart

First- through third-place winners of the National ProStart Invitational Culinary Competition and Management Competition will be awarded tuition scholarships of varying amounts to an Art Institutes school offering a culinary program.

Partial tuition scholarships will be awarded to first-place winners of the ProStart state-level Culinary Competition in: Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Washington D.C., West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Scholarships are applicable at an Art Institutes school offering a culinary program.

Visit the ProStart website at [www.prostart.restaurant.org](http://www.prostart.restaurant.org) for more information.

### FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America)

First- through third-place winners in the following competitions will be awarded tuition scholarships of varying amounts to an Art Institutes school offering the following programs:

- Culinary Arts: National FCCLA Culinary Competition and Management Competition
- Fashion: National FCCLA Fashion Design and Fashion Construction Competitions
- Interior Design: National FCCLA Interior Design Competition

Applicants must be high school seniors graduating in the competing year to be eligible for the scholarship.

Understanding financial aid

Researching your options

How do I get started?

How do I maintain my financial aid once I'm enrolled?

Completing the FAFSA form

Federal government loans

Taking advantage of tax benefits

Additional information

Frequently asked questions

**10** Financial aid at our school

Student consumer information



## Student consumer information

### It's all here.

If you're new to The Art Institute of Michigan, visit [www.artinstitutes.edu/detroit/info](http://www.artinstitutes.edu/detroit/info) to access the web pages listed below. When typing any of these links into your browser, all hyphens and other punctuation marks that appear here must be included.

Current students may log into the student portal site at <https://mycampus.artinstitutes.edu/portal/server.pt>.

Here you'll find the details you need to become an informed consumer of an Art Institutes education:

- Links to financial aid facts and forms
- Revealing insights from our Student Services and Career Services
- Academic information about courses, textbooks, and catalogs

FAFSA code:

# 012584

[artinstitutes.edu/detroit/info](http://artinstitutes.edu/detroit/info)

## Financial Aid Facts

Those who qualify for financial aid have a variety of resources to consider, from federal loans and state grants, to private lenders. This information will help you understand your options—and your obligations—for funding your creative education: <http://www.artinstitutes.edu/detroit/student-consumer-information/financial-aid-facts.aspx>.

- Types of Financial Aid
- Contact Information for Assistance in Obtaining Financial Aid Information
- Student Financial Aid Information
- Notice of Federal Student Financial Aid Penalties for Drug Law Violations
- Preferred Lender Arrangements
- Private Education Loans Overview
- Preferred Lender Lists
- Student Lending Code of Conduct for Education Loans
- Private Education Loan Disclosures
- Financial Aid Literacy
- Entrance (Initial) Counseling for Student Loan Borrowers
- Exit Counseling for Student Loan Borrowers
- National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS)

- State Grant Assistance
- Student Loan Information Published by Department of Education

## Academic Awareness

Want to know what's in store for you at an Art Institutes school? Here's where you'll get the lowdown on things like academics, our real-world labs and classroom facilities, and the broad industry experience of our faculty: <http://www.artinstitutes.edu/detroit/student-consumer-information/academic-awareness.aspx>.

- Refund Policy, Requirements for Withdrawal, and Return of Title IV (Federal) Financial Aid
- Cost of Attendance
- Academic Programs/Educational Programs
- Facilities
- Faculty
- Transfer of Credit Policies and Articulation Agreements
- Accreditation and Licensing
- Privacy of Student Records—Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
- Student Outcomes
- Student Diversity

Understanding financial aid

Researching your options

How do I get started?

How do I maintain my financial aid once I'm enrolled?

Completing the FAFSA form

Federal government loans

Taking advantage of tax benefits

Additional information

Frequently asked questions

Financial aid at our school

Student consumer information



## Student consumer information continued

### Textbook Look

Enrolled students may log in to the student portal to review a list of textbooks for our courses: <http://www.artinstitutes.edu/detroit/student-consumer-information/class-textbooks.aspx>.

### Student Services Revealed

Your health, safety, and overall well-being are essential to your growth and development. So whether it's voter registration, services for disabled students, or emergency procedures regarding alerts or evacuations, you'll find what you need here: <http://www.artinstitutes.edu/detroit/student-consumer-information/student-services-resources.aspx>.

This section includes a link to our security policies and crime report: <http://www.artinstitutes.edu/pdf/student-consumer-information/crime-report-detroit.pdf>.

[artinstitutes.edu/detroit/info](http://artinstitutes.edu/detroit/info)

- Health and Safety
- Disability Services
- Security Alerts
- Voter Registration for Students
- Vaccination Policy
- Drug and Alcohol Policies
- Copyright Infringement Policies and Sanctions

### Student Housing Costs

Here are the details you'll need to begin weighing the benefits—and factoring in the costs—of student housing: <http://www.artinstitutes.edu/detroit/student-consumer-information/student-housing-costs.aspx>.

### Graduate Employment Statistics

These employment statistics offer insight into the kinds of careers—and opportunities—available for well-prepared creative professionals: <http://www.artinstitutes.edu/detroit/student-consumer-information/career-services-statistics.aspx>.

### Outside Resources

Want to learn more about us? Visit the College Navigator website, maintained by the U.S. Department of Education Institute of Education Sciences: <http://www.artinstitutes.edu/detroit/student-consumer-information/outside-resources.aspx>.

### Student Success

Review graduation information for first-time, full-time students: <http://www.artinstitutes.edu/detroit/student-consumer-information/student-success.aspx>.

- Graduation/Completion Rates
- Transfer Out Rates
- Annual Retention Rates

### Gainful Employment Data

Review important information about median student debt: <http://www.artinstitutes.edu/detroit/student-consumer-information/gainful-employment-data.aspx>.

Understanding financial aid

Researching your options

How do I get started?

How do I maintain my financial aid once I'm enrolled?

Completing the FAFSA form

Federal government loans

Taking advantage of tax benefits

Additional information

Frequently asked questions

Financial aid at our school



Student consumer information



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Contact an admissions representative to learn more.