



Boston University Financial Assistance

2023/2024 Guide to Your Boston University Financial Aid Award

Acknowledge your award at <https://student.bu.edu/>. Doing so affirms that you understand and agree to all terms and conditions specified in this guide, so please carefully note all instructions.

The BU Scholarship Assurance

[The BU Scholarship Assurance](#) enables you to plan for the cost of your entire degree and we are happy to renew your award for the 2023/2024 academic year. BU financial aid is guaranteed for up to four years of full-time undergraduate study provided you are taking coursework to meet degree requirements, meet satisfactory academic progress standards, remain enrolled in at least 12 credits, meet on-campus housing requirements for the Charles River Housing Grant, and do not have a comptroller hold on your account.

Federal Financial Aid

If you have completed the 2023/2024 FAFSA, the federal and state aid for which you are eligible has been included in your award notification. If you have not completed the FAFSA and wish to be considered for federal financial aid, you may still do so. Application instructions and the link to the FAFSA can be found [on our website](#).

How to Pay Your Bill with Your Award

The projected cost of attendance is listed [on our website](#). Your fall semester charges will be viewable on the Student Link by mid-July. Tuition and fee charges will be listed along with charges for room and meal plan if you will be living in BU-owned housing. Any awards listed on your Financial Aid Award notification as “to be credited to student account” will appear as pending credits. Federal Direct Loans, if included in your award, will appear as “pending items” until those funds are disbursed. If you haven’t done so previously, you will be required to complete promissory notes and other requirements. Your actual Direct Loan credit will be less than the amount borrowed because of an origination fee charged by the U.S. government. If Federal Work-Study is included in your award offer, please note that since you will be paid weekly as you earn this money, you cannot apply Federal Work-Study to the balance due on your invoice. [Student Accounting Services](#) provides full instructions on how to settle your account. If your aid exceeds your billed charges, your account will display a credit balance. Any credit on your account will be [available to you as a refund](#) on or after the first day of classes.

Fulfill Your Financial Obligations to the University

You cannot receive financial aid if you have an outstanding balance due from a prior enrollment period. Thus, you must promptly pay any remaining balance owed.

Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress

To be eligible for renewal of any financial aid, you must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.00 and complete 75% of your attempted courses. Satisfactory academic progress will be reviewed at the beginning of each academic year. Physical Development Program (PDP) courses are not considered in these determinations. Boston University also requires that students meet this same standard for credit-based loan certification, including federal, state, and private credit-based loans.

Once classes begin, students who withdraw or take a leave of absence during the first semester of the academic year will not be eligible for financial aid until they have completed at least 12 credits with a minimum GPA of 2.00, unless extenuating circumstances are documented.

Eligibility for federal funds is limited to 6 years of full-time undergraduate enrollment. Eligibility for University and state grant is limited to 8 semesters of full-time undergraduate enrollment. The determination that a student has or has not maintained satisfactory academic progress as required for renewal of financial aid is made by BU Financial Assistance, not by the school or college. However, each individual school or college does determine the academic standing of a student for the purpose of continued enrollment in their program of study.

Inform BU Financial Assistance of any additional awards.

Promptly inform BU Financial Assistance in writing of any additional award you receive from any source, either within or outside of Boston University, including scholarships, grants, tuition benefits, VA benefits, or other aid. If you receive additional aid, no reduction will be made to:

- Federal need-based awards, provided total aid from all sources does not exceed your FAFSA-calculated financial eligibility.
- Renewed need-based BU Scholarship Assurance awards provided, total aid from all sources does not exceed your cost of attendance.
- New need-based BU Scholarship Assurance awards provided, total aid from all sources does not exceed your demonstrated financial need.

Inform BU Financial Assistance promptly of changes to your name, address, enrollment, or degree status, or if you withdraw or take a leave of absence from BU. If you reduce your course load to less than full-time (12 credits), you may lose part of or your entire aid award. [Speak with your academic advisor and the assistant director](#) responsible for your aid application before reducing your course load.

Appealing for Reconsideration of Your Need-Based Aid Decision

We understand that family circumstances change and that extenuating circumstances sometimes arise. Thus, all appeal petitions will be carefully reviewed and every effort will be made to assist you. Funding is limited. If possible, please submit requests for additional assistance within ten (10) days of your receipt of an award notification. [Visit our website](#) to learn more about the appeal process, required documentation, and answers to frequently asked questions including likely outcomes.

A limited amount of assistance for the spring 2024 semester may be available for eligible applicants who submit a [Request for Financial Aid Reconsideration](#) form prior to their second semester. This is an opportunity for those with changed (such as a loss of employment) and/or other extenuating family circumstances to present that information for consideration. [Application forms](#) are available and are due by the first Monday of November for consideration before the spring payment deadline.

Scholarships and Grants

Unlike student loans, scholarships and grants do not have to be repaid. BU need-based scholarships are made possible by the generous gifts of our alumni and friends. Portions of your BU Scholarship may be renamed as a result. Recipients of the Charles River Housing Grant are required to live in BU-owned housing on either the Charles River Campus or the Fenway Campus, unless they are enrolled in a BU study abroad program. For more information on specific scholarship and grant programs, [visit our website](#).

Student Employment

Students are encouraged to work part time during the academic year. There are [many work opportunities on campus](#) even if you did not receive a Federal Work-Study award.

Loans

Unlike scholarships and grants, loans must be repaid. For more information on specific loan programs including Federal Direct Loans, Massachusetts No Interest Loans, and on credit-based loans such as Federal PLUS Loans, please [visit our website](#).

What if I Withdraw or Take a Leave of Absence from the University

Undergraduate student withdrawals and leaves of absence should be arranged at the University Service Center. Contact the University Service Center on [their website](#) or by calling 617-358-1818. More information about what happens to your financial aid if you withdraw or take a leave of absence can be found [on our website](#).

Tips and Other Resources

ShareLink: We urge you to [grant ShareLink access](#) to any family member helping you with college expenses.

Smart Money: [Get financial wellness tips and guidance](#) on how to make the most of your money as a BU student and as you plan for life after BU.

Plan to Minimize Your Debt: Use the information and calculator on our [planning page](#). Learn how to minimize your expenses and maximize your resources.

Contacting BU Financial Assistance

We are happy to assist you and your family with questions about the application process, eligibility criteria and financing options. Information, however, about your specific financial aid application, your eligibility, and your award will not be disclosed to your parent or guardian without your consent. Via the Student Link you can: 1) [Consent](#) to the release of certain information to a parent, 2) Establish [ShareLink](#) access for a parent to view certain academic and financial information. For

more information, review the [Boston University Policy Regarding Release of Information to Parents and Guardians](#).

Questions? Ask BUzz, our new chatbot. Visit our website at <https://www.bu.edu/finaid>.

Call 617-353-2965, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. ET. If our telephone lines are busy, we suggest that you call later in the week, before noon or after 2 p.m. ET.

Email finaid@bu.edu. Please include your name and Boston University ID number in any email communication. BU Financial Assistance will routinely address communications to students at their BU email account. We urge you to check your email account frequently and share financial aid information with any family member helping you with college expenses.

Boston University Financial Assistance

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The terms and conditions of awards are subject to change in subsequent years.