



How to Read Your Financial Aid Letter

IMPORTANT: This Document is Not Your Financial Aid Award Letter

This document is to help you understand your estimated costs and how financial aid can help cover them. To see your actual financial aid offer, check your personalized award letter in [MyHudson Self-Service Financial Aid portal](#).

For a more accurate estimate of your cost of attendance, your award letter will be updated after you register for your classes. To get the most accurate financial aid details:

- ☐ Finalize your registration (you may need to meet with HCCC Advising)
- ☐ Check your updated award in the [MyHudson Self-Service Financial Aid portal](#)

How to Use Your Award Letter to Calculate Your Total Costs for 2025-2026

	TOTAL
Total Estimated Costs for Attending HCCC	See Total Cost of Attendance
- Estimated Aid You Are Being Offered to Help You Pay for School	See Total Grants and Scholarships
= Your Estimated Costs to Pay for School	See Total Net Cost
- Student Loans to Help You Pay Costs (optional)	See Loan Options
= Total Remaining Estimated Out-of-Pocket Costs	

Total Cost of Attendance

Direct Costs (what you will be billed)		Indirect Expenses	
Tuition & Fees:	\$ X.XX	Books & Supplies	\$ X.XX
Food & Housing (If you live in campus housing)	\$ X.XX	Food & Housing (If you live in off campus housing)	\$ X.XX
		Transportation:	\$ X.XX
		Personal & Miscellaneous:	\$ X.XX
		Loan Fees:	\$ X.XX
		Dependent Care:	\$ X.XX
Total Direct Costs:	\$ X.XX	Total Indirect Costs:	\$ X.XX
Total Cost of Attendance (Direct Costs and Indirect Expenses combined)			\$ X.XX


Direct Costs estimate expenses that will be on your school bill, so **Total Direct Costs** is the estimate of your bill without using any aid to help you pay.

Indirect Expenses are estimates of things like rent, transportation, and food. These expenses you will not be on your college bill, but you should consider them when thinking about the total cost to you of attending HCCC.

Total Cost of Attendance is the estimate of your total expenses over the 2025-2026 school year, including your school bill and other living expenses. Below you'll see how much of this can be covered by financial aid.

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Grants and Scholarships to Pay for College	
Merit-Based Scholarships	
Scholarships from your school	\$ X.XX
Scholarships from your state	\$ X.XX
Other Scholarships	\$ X.XX
Need-Based Grant Aid	
Federal Pell Grants	\$ X.XX
Grants from your school	\$ X.XX
State Grants	\$ X.XX
Other forms of grant aid	\$ X.XX
Employer Paid Tuition Benefits	\$ X.XX
Total Grants and Scholarships (does not have to be paid back)	\$ X.XX

 **IMPORTANT:** You may be able to increase the amount of your gift aid by applying for more state grants and scholarships. If you have not already, consider reviewing:

- [NJ Grants and Scholarships](#)
- [HCCC Scholarships](#)

Total Grants and Scholarships or “gift aid,” is the estimated amount of financial aid offered to you to help pay for college expenses. While **most grants and scholarships do not require repayment**, some scholarships may have conditions for repayment in some circumstances, such as early withdrawal from school. Always refer to the specific terms of your awards.

What Will You Pay for College	
Direct Net Cost (<i>Direct costs minus total grants and scholarships</i>)	\$ X.XX
Total Net Cost (<i>Total Cost of Attendance minus total grants</i>)	\$ X.XX

Direct Net Cost is the estimate of your **school bill** with the gift aid that does not need to be repaid applied to it.

Total Net Cost is the estimate of your **total costs** (your school bill plus other personal costs like rent) over the 2025-2026 school year with all gift aid that does not need to be repaid applied. You must choose how to cover these costs, either with your own money or by using the additional options on the next page.

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Work Options	
Work-Study <i>(Federal, state, or institutional) Work-Study = Estimated earnings from working</i>	\$ X.XX

Work-study eligibility allows you to apply for part-time employment on campus while you are enrolled in school to help pay up to this amount toward your remaining education expenses.

Federal Student Loan Options* (Must be repaid)	
Federal Direct Subsidized Loan <i>(For current interest rates click here)</i>	\$ X.XX
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan <i>(For current interest rates click here)</i>	\$ X.XX
<p>*You must repay loans, plus interest and fees. Note that the amounts listed above are the maximum available to you - you are allowed and encouraged to borrow less than the maximum amount.</p> <p>The acceptance or declination of one or more loan offers shall not impact your eligibility for any grants or scholarships detailed in your award letter.</p>	

Federal Direct Subsidized and Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans are the maximum amount of Direct Loans you can borrow from the federal government to pay any remaining expenses from your total net cost. **Federal Subsidized Loans** have slightly better terms to help students with financial need than **Federal Unsubsidized Loans**, but both must be repaid after you leave school with interest and fees. For more information regarding Federal Direct Loan repayments, please refer to: <https://studentaid.gov/sites/default/files/direct-loan-basics-parents.pdf>

Other Loan Options (Must be repaid)	
Parent PLUS federal Loan** <i>(For current interest rates click here)</i>	\$ X.XX
Private Loan**	\$ X.XX
Institutional Loan	\$ X.XX
<p>**These loans are loaned to parents or may require a credit worthy cosigner. In addition, such loans do not have the same borrower protections as Federal Direct Student loans and include higher fees. You must repay loans, plus interest and fees. The amounts listed above are the maximum available to you - you are allowed and encouraged to borrow less than the maximum amount.</p> <p>The acceptance or declination of one or more loan offers shall not impact your eligibility for any grants or scholarships detailed in your award letter.</p>	

Parent PLUS Federal Loans, Private Loans, and Institutional Loans are the maximum amount you can borrow from sources other than federal Direct Loans. These types of loans do not have the same borrower protections as federal Direct Loans. These loans must be repaid after you leave school with interest and fees.