



orientation

MONTANA
STATE UNIVERSITY

— BOZEMAN • MONTANA —

Paying For School Part 1

Financial Aid, Student Accounts &
Office of Financial Education



Agenda

- **FAFSA Overview & General Information**
- **Cost of Attendance Information**
- **Scholarships, Private Loans & Parent Plus**
- **Your Bill – Deadlines, Payment Plans, Online Payment, Authorized Payers**
- **Checklist to Prepare for Fall**
- **Budgeting Tips and Planner**



Office of Financial Aid

James Broscheit, Director



Financial Aid Office

How to Contact Us

- Stop In - “Garden Level” Montana Hall – Room 21
- Phone - 406-994-2845
- Email - finaid@montana.edu
- Upload Documents - <https://www.montana.edu/financialaid/>

Investment and ROI

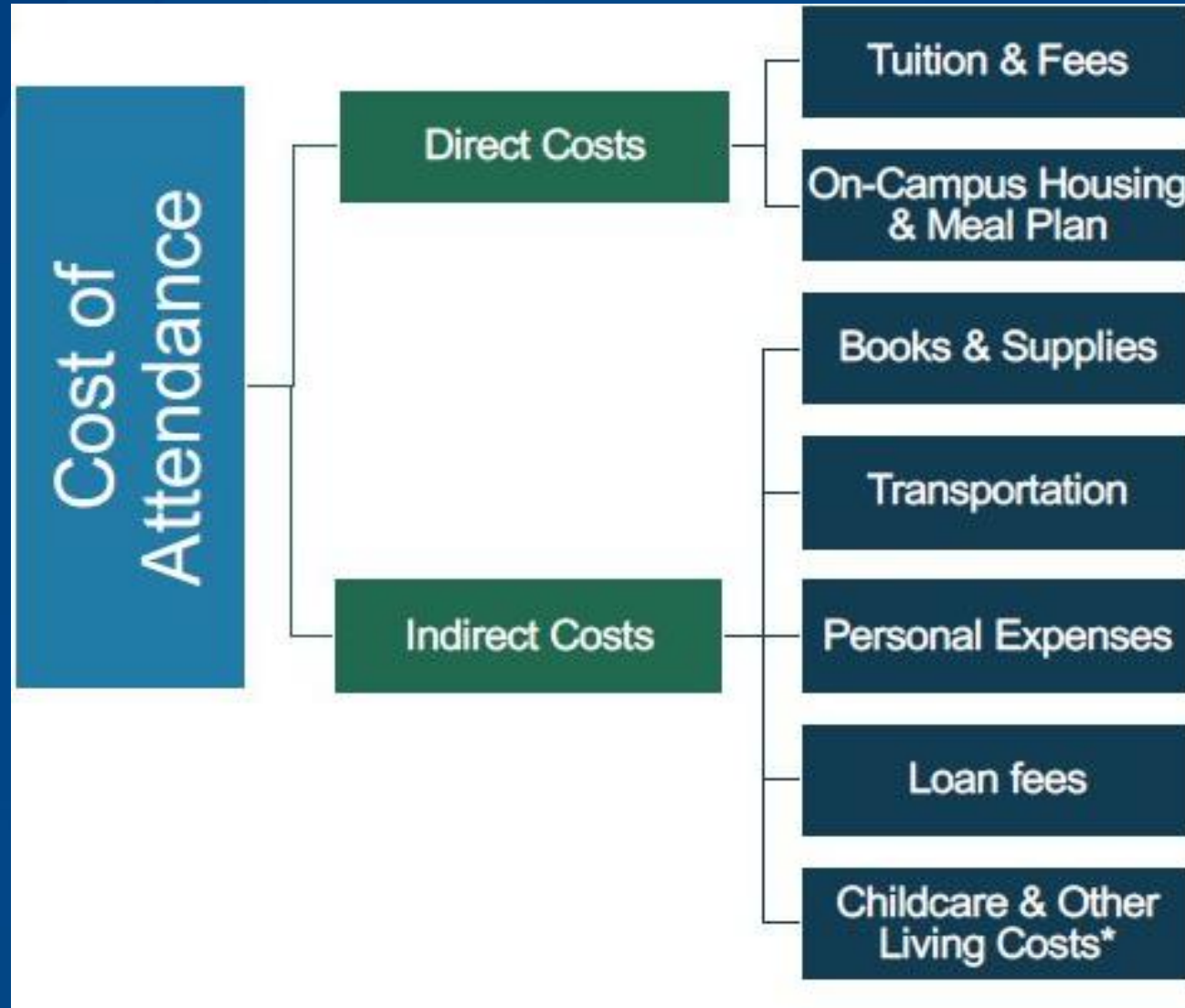
- Increased Lifetime Earning
- Lower Unemployment (consistent income)
- Career Advancement
- Broader Job Market
- Personal/Professional Growth
- Job Satisfaction

FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid

- Annual Application
- Opens October each year for the next year
- Not Just for Federal Aid
 - Scholarships



Cost of Attendance (Cadillac vs Ford)



Estimated Cost of Attendance for 2025-2026

Direct Expenses		Montana Resident	WUE	Non-Resident
These costs are on your MSU Bill	Tuition & Fees	\$ 8,946.00	\$ 12,662.00	\$ 33,872.00
	Food & Housing	\$ 14,580.00	\$ 14,580.00	\$ 14,580.00
	TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES	\$ 23,526.00	\$ 27,242.00	\$ 48,452.00

Indirect Expenses		Montana Resident	WUE	Non-Resident
These costs will NOT be on your MSU bill	Books/Supplies	\$ 1,450.00	\$ 1,450.00	\$ 1,450.00
	Personal Expenses	\$ 4,110.00	\$ 4,110.00	\$ 4,110.00
	TOTAL INDIRECT EXPENSES	\$ 5,560.00	\$ 5,560.00	\$ 5,560.00

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST		\$ 29,086.00	\$ 32,802.00	\$ 54,012.00
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Net Cost

What is Net Cost?

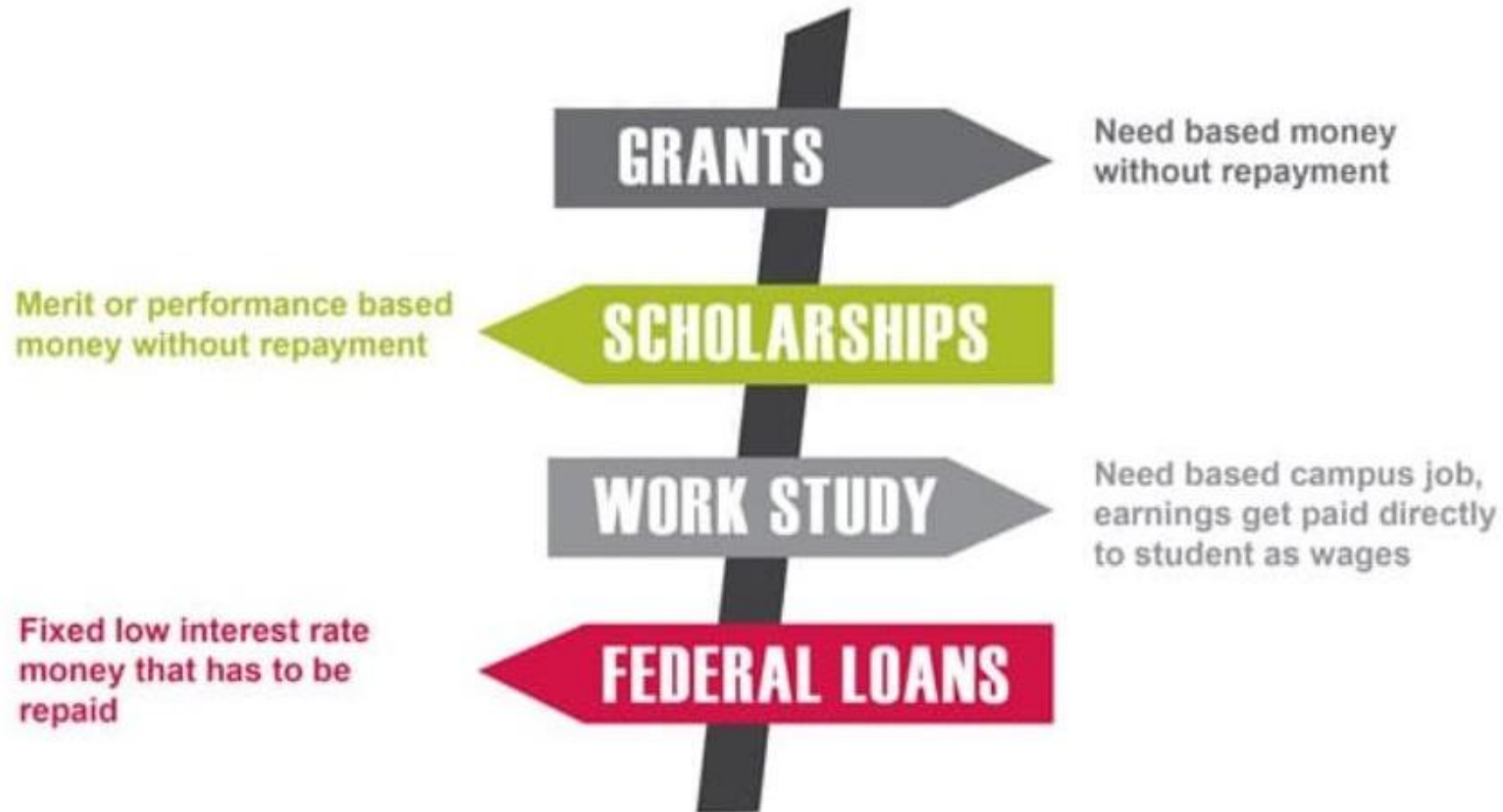
- Estimated out of pocket expenses, or the remaining amount needed to cover the cost of attendance.
- Calculated by subtracting grants and scholarships from either the Cost of Attendance or Direct Costs.
- Also known as “the Gap.”

Example (non-resident):

- Direct Costs: \$48,452
- Achievement Award: (\$15,000)
- Outside Scholarship: (\$2,500)
- Pell Grant: (\$4,000)
- NET COST: \$26,952

Gap can be covered with.....savings, work, loans

Financial Aid Resources



- Annual Application
- Opens November each year for the next year
- Institutional



When Financial Aid Isn't Enough....

Private Loans



The screenshot shows the Montana State University website for private lending. At the top left is the Montana State University logo. To its right, the text reads "Montana State University" and "Private Lending for Higher Education". Below the logo, it says "Welcome to FastChoice" and provides a brief description of the service. To the right of this text is a photo of four students sitting around a table, looking at documents. Below the photo, there is a section titled "Searching for a Private Loan?" with a magnifying glass icon containing a dollar sign. This section explains that choosing the right approach requires understanding options and lender details, and that FastChoice makes it easy by providing information in an easy-to-understand format. At the bottom, there is a section titled "Borrowing Essentials" with a building icon containing a dollar sign, which provides an interactive overview of basic borrowing information.

Montana State University
Private Lending for Higher Education

Welcome to FastChoice

FASTChoice helps you request the loan you determine is right for you by providing detailed information for various loans, as well as the terms and benefits offered by different lenders.

Searching for a Private Loan?

There are many ways to pay for higher education, and choosing the right approach requires a good understanding of your options, your responsibilities, and the various details of each lender's loan products.

It's a lot to keep in mind. FastChoice makes it easy by providing you with information about private loans in an easy-to-understand format, to help you determine which private student loan best meets your needs.

Borrowing Essentials

Borrowing Essentials provides an interactive overview of some basic information about borrowing money to pay for your education.

Helpful Tips

- Do your Research
 - **FastChoice** & **Credible**
- <https://www.montana.edu/financialaid/Loans-Private.html>

Other Things You Need to Know

- **Verification**
- **Check your email**
- **Checklists**
- **Loans beyond acceptance**
- **'Thank You' letters**
- **Bobcat Bridge Loans**

- **Book Loans**
- **Satisfactory Academic Progress**
- **Information Guide**
- **FERPA**



Student Accounts

Ryan Christensen, Director



QuikPay

The Student's Portal to:

- Make a Payment
 - Payments can be made by check, echeck, credit and debit cards (credit/debit cards will have a 2.85% fee)
- Set up a Payment Plan
- Manage Direct Deposit for Refunds
- Set up Authorized Payers
 - (not the same as FERPA)



Message Board

Payment Profiles

→ Manage Refunds

→ Authorize Payers

User Preferences

→ View & Pay Accounts

Transaction History

→ **Payment Plan**

Messages

Authorized Payers

In this portal you can:

1. Make a Payment on time
2. Set up a Payment Plan through your account – divide balance into 4 payments during semester
3. See the bill and remaining balance
4. Understand the difference between the statement & current balance

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Profile

Message Board

Edit My Profile

Payment Profiles

User Preferences

View & Pay Accounts

Transaction History

Payment Plan

Messages

View & Pay Accounts

Below is your most recent statement based on the Bill Date.

- If changes have been made since this statement, students can view their Current Balance on the MyInfo Web Bill or by selecting 'Make a Payment'
- If you are on a Tuition Payment Plan, Amount Due does not include your Future Balance listed on statement
- To mail in a payment, send to:
Student Accounts, MSU, PO Box 172640, Bozeman, MT 59717-2640

[Click here for more information about Confirmation/Fee Payment Deadlines and Refunds](#)

Student Account Details

Make a Payment

Account Activity

Current Activity

Current Activity Details

Current Balance: \$0.00

Latest Statement

Statement Billing Date: February 20, 2025

Statement Due Date: February 28, 2025

Statement Balance: \$84.69

Statement Amount Due: \$84.69

[Statement Details](#)

Statement Details

Student ID#: [REDACTED]

Student Name: [REDACTED]

Bill Date: February 20, 2025

Due Date: February 28, 2025

Amount Due: \$84.69

[Printable Statement](#)

TERM	DESCRIPTION	CHARGES	CREDITS
Spring 2025	CURRENT CHARGES		
	Billing Charges	40.00	
	Fees	104.69	
	Nonrefundable Registration Fee	30.00	
	Tuition/Fees	3,327.82	
	Total Current Charges	3,502.51	
Spring 2025	CURRENT PAYMENTS		
	Credit Card Web Payment		2,236.79
	Dependent Tuition Waiver		1,181.03
	Total Current Payments		3,417.82
Spring 2025	CURRENT TERM BALANCE		\$84.69

[Print PDF](#) [Close](#)

Tuition Payment Plan



Profile ▾

Message Board

Payment Profiles

Manage Refunds

Authorize Payers

User Preferences

View & Pay Accounts

Transaction History

Payment Plan

Messages

Budget Worksheet

Budget Calculator Click the Budget Calculator button to use the budget calculator.

Fall 2024

Charges	Values	Credits	Values
Tuition	<input type="text" value="12000.00"/>	Scholarships	<input type="text" value="5000.00"/>
Fees	<input type="text" value="3000.00"/>	Grants	<input type="text" value="3000.00"/>
Payment Plan Balance			7000.00

Back

Continue

Cancel

Confirming/Paying Your Bill

Future Due:		\$0.00
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Anticipated Financial Aid For This Term	
Description	Fund Title
UG Scholars Fee Waiver Res	\$500.00
Total:	\$500.00

Summary For This Term	
Item	Amount
Previous Balance:	\$0.00
Current Charges:	\$8,086.45
Total Charges: *	\$8,086.45
Total Payments: **	< \$9,977.00 >
Current Bal Due:	\$0.00
Estimated Refund:	\$1,890.55
Future Due:	\$0.00

Charges/payment for future term(s) are not reflected in this SUMMARY.
* Charges include any previous balance.
** Payments include cash, credit card, check, financial aid, anticipated financial aid, Tuition, etc.

***** Your Account shows a 0 or Credit Balance, please click Confirm button to Accept Bill**

By clicking CONFIRM BILL, I agree to accept the charges and payments on my account and fees, fines, and debts to Montana State University campuses that may be incurred by me.

QuickPay Access: To Pay On-line or setup an Authorized Payer/Parent to Pay or Setup

View Detail: If you would like to see the charges in more detail, click

Confirm/Pay Bill Deadlines

For Fall 2025

- Registered on or before July 31, 2025
 - **Deadline: AUGUST 8, 2025**
 - \$40 late fee after this date
- Registered on or after August 1, 2025
 - **Deadline: AUGUST 27, 2025**
 - \$40 late fee after this date
- **ALL STUDENTS MUST TAKE ACTION TO BE CONFIRMED BY SEPTEMBER 10, 2025**
 - Avoid cancellation of classes
 - Additional \$40 late fee



Office of Financial Education



Keith Hamburg, Senior Financial Coach
Jennifer White-Dobbs, Financial Coach



Office of Financial Education

What We Do

- Paying for Your Education:
 - Understanding Student Loans, FAFSA
 - Scholarship Searching
- Money Management:
 - Budgeting
 - Savings
 - Credit
- Planning for Your Future:
 - Loan Repayments
 - Understanding Benefits
 - Retirement Savings
- Financial Coaching & Clinics



To Do Before the Start of the Fall 25 Semester

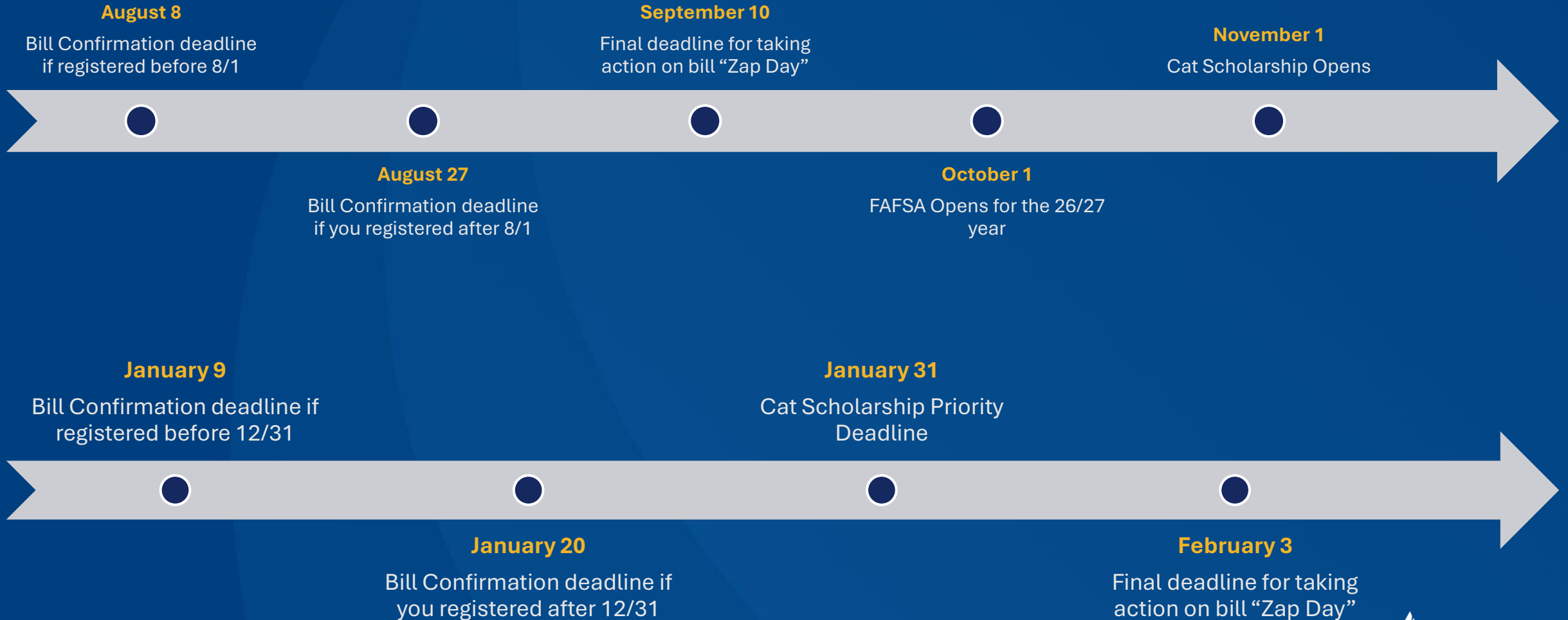
Your Bill & Finances

- Accept Financial Aid Award Letter
- Complete MPN & Entrance Counseling
- Confirm your bill in MyInfo
- Set up Payment Plan if Needed
- If you don't see your Aid
 - Information located in Students "MyInfo" under Financial Aid 9x
 - Check for unsatisfied requirements

Your Semester Needs

- Register on Hire-a-Bobcat powered by Handshake
 - Create Your Account
 - Start looking for a part-time job
- Consider how much you will earn over the summer and BUILD A BUDGET for books, entertainment, food & supplies
- Start planning for the funds you will need for Spring Semester

Key Dates for Your Calendar



Planning Your College Budget Today & In

BUDGET PLANNER

FOR COST OF ATTENDANCE 2025-2026

SEMESTER BUDGET PLANNER

*Budget your bill one semester at a time for payment purposes

ITEM	SAMPLE PLAN (using non-resident tuition)	YOUR SEMESTER BILL
Direct Expenses Total	\$24,226	
Indirect Expenses Total	\$2,780	
Total Cost:	\$27,006	\$
Federal Aid Total	\$2,750	
MSU Award Total	\$5,000	
Scholarships Total	\$4,000	
Other Funds Total	\$7,000	
Total:	\$18,750	\$
Total Remaining Cost:	\$8,256	\$

DIRECT EXPENSES

RESIDENT

*estimated room/board,
your cost may vary

ITEM	YEAR	SEMESTER
Tuition/Fees	\$8,946	\$4,473
Food & Housing	\$14,580	\$7,290
Total:	\$23,526	\$11,763

WUE

ITEM	YEAR	SEMESTER
Tuition/Fees	\$12,662	\$6,331
Room/Board	\$14,580	\$7,290
Total:	\$27,242	\$13,621

NON-RESIDENT

ITEM	YEAR	SEMESTER
Tuition/Fees	\$33,872	\$16,936
Room/Board	\$14,580	\$7,290
Total:	\$48,452	\$24,226

INDIRECT EXPENSES

ITEM	YEAR	SEMESTER
Books/Supplies	\$1,450	\$725
Parking Pass Local		
Travel \$\$		
Travel Home \$\$		
Personal Items		
Food		
Entertainment		
Total:		\$

Annual Indirect Expenses are estimated at
\$5,560/year and \$2,780/semester



PAYING
FOR
SCHOOL

BUDGET
PLANNER

FUNDS TO PAY FOR SCHOOL

FINANCIAL AID AWARD

FINANCIAL AID	YEAR	SEMESTER	ACCEPTED?
Subsidized Loan			
Unsubsidized Loan			
Other			
Loan Subtotal:			
Grants			
Awards			
Other			
Other Aid Subtotal:			
Total:	\$	\$	

SCHOLARSHIPS

AWARD NAME	YEAR	SEMESTER
Total:	\$	\$

OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES

FUNDS	YEAR	SEMESTER
Family Contribution		
529/Other Plan		
On Campus Job		
Summer Job		
Total:	\$	\$

*Working up to 20 hours per week during the semester can help
cover costs and not interfere with coursework.
Evidence shows attending school full time
and working over 20 hours/week increases student stress



PAYING
FOR
SCHOOL

BUDGET
PLANNER

Planning Your College Budget

Taking Student Loans?

- **Know Your Student Loan Servicer:**
 - A few weeks after you pay your bill, you can set up your account
 - OFE can help you do this
- **Federal Student Aid Loan Servicers**
 - aidVantage
 - EdFinancial
 - Nelnet
 - Mohela
 - CRI
 - Heartland /ESCI

2025-2026 Interest Rates for Direct Federal Loans for Students & Parents

- Direct Subsidized Loans—6.39%
- Direct Unsubsidized Loans—6.39%
- Direct Parent Plus Loans—8.94%

Looking Ahead for Financial Success

Start NOW for peace of mind later

FAFSA 2026-2027

Opens October 1

- Apply EARLY for most opportunities!
- MSU priority deadline is December 1.

Cat Scholarships

Application Opens November 1st

- Complete before the January 31st priority deadline!

Build a Budget

Attend an OFE clinic or Coaching Appointment

- Create a budget
- Begin planning for the future

Clinics & Appointments

Make an Appointment Today

- In person, Phone, or WEBEX
- 406-994-4388
- SUB 152
- Keith Hamburg
 - Keith.hamburg@montana.edu
- Jennifer White-Dobbs
 - Jennifer.whitedobbs@montana.edu
- Pam Bittner
 - Pamela.bittner@montana.edu

Upcoming Clinics & Resources

- Paying for School Part II Romney 306
 - Wednesday 10:00-11:00
 - Drop-In Help 11:00-1:00
- Paying for School Webinars
 - Friday, June 20th 11:00 AM (MT)
 - Monday June 30th 12:00 (MT)
 - Tuesday July 8th 9:00 AM (MT)
- Check out our clinics for students this Fall
- QR code will take you to our resource page



Questions?

Contact information for presenters:

- **Office of Financial Aid**

406-994-2845

finaid@montana.edu

- **Student Accounts**

406-994-1991

studentaccounts@montana.edu

- **Office of Financial Education**

406-994-4388

makechange@montana.edu





fdfdrrd

subtitle



Text1a

Text1b

Text1c

Text1d

Text1e



Content Heading

Subheading

Step 1

Step 1

- Do the first step

Step 2

Step 2

- Do the second step

Step 3

Step 3

- Do the third step

Content Heading

Subheading

- Text 1
 - Text 1a
- Text 2
 - Text 2a
- Text 3
 - Text 3a
 - Duplicate this slide as needed.



Section Intro Slide

Presenter Title OR Content Covered

Agenda

Include a general run-down of the presentation using bullets below.

- **FAFSA Overview & General Information**
- **Cost of Attendance Information**
- **Scholarships, Private Loans & Parent Plus**
- **Financial Aid Checklist**

Barb Sander

Associate Director

Include a short bio of the Presenter or their office.

- Line 1
- Line 2

Replace with presenter
photo