Does financial aid seem like a mystery?
Applying for and understanding your financial aid award can seem like a mysterious process. What are the next steps? Who can advise you? What are the options specific to your situation? The answers to these questions can be found in Luther’s Financial Aid Office, where we provide assistance to help you better understand your aid award.

At Luther, we strive to make the financial aid process feel less mechanized and more personal. We’ve included our pictures, above, to help you better connect a name with a face, so when you call us with questions—which we encourage you to do—you’ll feel more comfortable and confident knowing that your inquiries will receive the attention they deserve. You should expect nothing less from us.

The four of us together have more than a century of financial aid experience. We’re confident we’ll be able to help you with your questions and promise to treat your inquiries as if it’s the first time we’ve been asked.

So, with your financial aid award and cost estimate worksheet in front of you—and this guide in hand—let’s see if we can help you make sense of things.

And if it’s still a mystery to you, please do give us a call.

About your financial award
Your financial award details the assistance you’re eligible to receive based on the information you provided. Since we have not received information from the federal government indicating the results from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), we assume that you have decided not to file the FAFSA.

If you do decide to file a FAFSA—it is not too late—you may be eligible for additional forms of need-based assistance. If so, your award will be changed to reflect any additional assistance. In addition to need-based forms of aid, the FAFSA will allow us to consider you for federal student and/or parent loan programs. We recommend you complete the FAFSA online at [fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).

Financial assistance comes in a variety of forms; your award contains one or more of the following types.

SCHOLARSHIP AND GRANTS
Scholarships and awards are gifts of money based on academic merit or talent. These awards do not need to be repaid.
Luther Scholarships and Awards
Scholarships and awards funded by Luther are a major source of assistance for students. These awards are made available through generous gifts from donors and funds from Luther’s general operating budget. If you receive funds from a named endowment or donor, we’ll notify you during the academic year so you can thank the individual(s) responsible for your assistance. The majority of Luther College’s grants and scholarships are available for a total of eight semesters of full-time study.

If you have been awarded scholarships or awards, those funds will be credited directly to your account. You must be enrolled for at least 12 credits per semester—considered full-time status—to receive these awards. Please note that January Term credits are not counted toward the minimum 12 credits for either semester.

Education Partners in Covenant (EPIC)
EPIC grants represent a cooperative venture between Luther College and any church congregation that chooses to financially support one or more students at Luther. In this program, Luther matches church contributions up to $1,000 per year for a maximum of eight semesters of full-time study.

If you will be receiving EPIC funds and they are not shown on your financial aid award, please ask your congregation to submit the EPIC Contribution Form or a letter informing us of the contribution.

We ask that your congregation submit the contributions to Luther prior to August 10 for fall semester and January 10 for spring semester. The check should be identified as an EPIC gift with you listed as the recipient. If the check is mailed to you directly, you must forward the check to the Financial Aid Office so we can apply the funds to your account and award you the Luther match.

If members of your church have questions about the program, they should feel free to contact the Financial Aid Office at (563) 387-1018.

Outside Agency Scholarships and Awards
If you will be receiving outside agency scholarships or awards (money from sources such as Scholarship America, companies, foundations, etc.), please list each award on the Outside Scholarship Reporting Form and return it to the Financial Aid Office. Any outside agency scholarships that are reported will be listed as anticipated payments on your student account. Anticipated payments will be credited to your account and will reduce the balance due. Luther will reconcile anticipated payments when the funds are actually received.

Be sure to contact the sponsoring organization to ensure that your scholarship is being processed. Outside agencies should submit scholarship checks to the Financial Aid Office. If the scholarship check is given directly to you, it is important that you submit the check to the Financial Aid Office to ensure that the funds are properly credited to your student account.

Student Work-Study Program
The student work-study program is designed to provide you with on-campus employment while attending Luther.

This program offers important benefits, including the opportunity to pay for part of your college expenses through work. Additionally, while participating directly in the life of the Luther community, you will gain valuable work experience that prepares you for employment in future years.

GradReady
The Financial Aid Office has partnered with NorthStar Education Services Inc. to offer GradReady. This online money management website has videos and tools about credit, student loans, and identity theft. We encourage our students to create a profile on this site and utilize it regularly. More information regarding GradReady can be found in the Additional Information section of the financial aid website.

Additional Information
The Financial Aid Office website, luther.edu/financial-aid, contains information on a wide variety of topics. We invite you to visit the website if you need additional information.