

Understanding

YOUR FINANCIAL AID OFFER

DOES FINANCIAL AID SEEM LIKE A MYSTERY?

Applying for and understanding your financial aid offer can feel daunting. What are the next steps? Who can advise you? What are the options specific to your situation? Luther's Financial Aid Office can help you answer these questions and better understand your aid offer.

In addition to seeming complicated, the process up to this point may have felt a bit impersonal. You supply the information for your FAFSA form, and the federal government generates your Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

At Luther, we strive to make the financial aid process feel less mechanized and more personal. If you have questions—or just want to talk through your specific situation—get in touch! We love to help.

ABOUT YOUR FINANCIAL AID OFFER

Your financial aid offer reports in detail the assistance you're eligible to receive based on the information you provided. It includes all programs administered through Luther, as well as aid offered by the federal and/or state governments, outside agencies, and private donors.

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

Scholarships and Grants

Scholarships and grants are gifts of money based on academic merit, talent, and financial need. These awards do not need to be repaid.

Luther Scholarships and Grants

Scholarships and grants funded by Luther are the primary sources 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 amounts of our scholarships and grants vary depending on your demonstrated financial need and/or academic achievement. 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 grants, 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.

Federal Grants

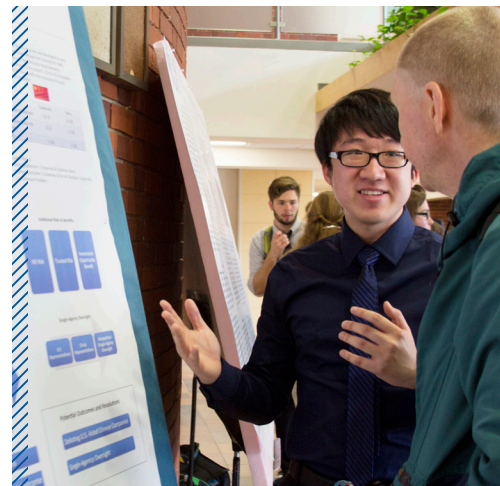
The Pell Grant and the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) are federal grants awarded to students who demonstrate exceptional need. All Luther students applying for need-based assistance are considered for these funds.

If your financial aid offer indicates you will be receiving Pell Grant and SEOG funds, additional documentation may be requested by the Financial Aid Office to confirm your grant.

State Grants

The Iowa Tuition Grant is awarded to Iowa residents on the basis of financial need.

If you meet the state guidelines for this grant, you will see the Iowa Tuition Grant



LUTHER COLLEGE

Financial Aid

WEBSITE

luther.edu/financial-aid

EMAIL

finaid@luther.edu

PHONE

(800) 458-8437
(563) 387-1018

FAX

(563) 387-2241

Financial Aid Office
Luther College
700 College Drive
Decorah, Iowa 52101-1045

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.



indicated on your financial aid offer.

Grants are normally renewable each year, provided you continue to meet the need requirements and filing deadlines set by the Iowa College Student Aid Commission.

You may receive up to the equivalent of eight full-time semesters of Iowa Tuition Grant funds as an undergraduate student. In the event that available state funds are insufficient to pay the full amount of each approved grant, the Iowa College Student Aid Commission has the authority to administratively reduce the award.

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 offer, 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 Scholarships and Awards

Since federal regulations require that all student aid be considered in a financial aid offer, receipt of outside agency

scholarships and awards may affect your eligibility for other aid programs.

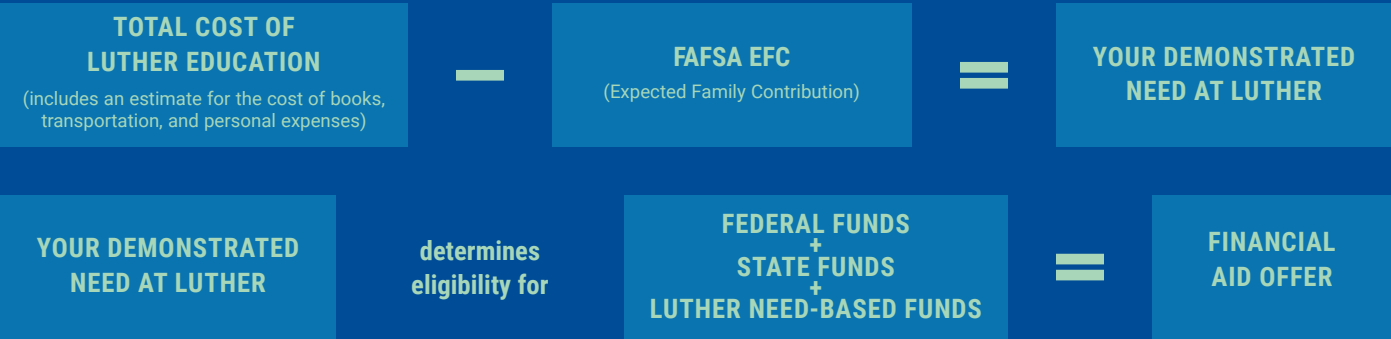
If you are receiving an outside agency scholarship (money from sources such as Scholarship America, companies, foundations, etc.), the award must be coordinated with your financial aid offer.

If you know of aid that you will be receiving—and that aid does not appear on your financial aid offer—please notify the Financial Aid Office by listing the scholarship on the Outside Scholarship Reporting Form. The Financial Aid Office will coordinate your outside agency scholarship with your current aid and send you a revised financial aid offer. Be sure to contact the sponsoring organization to ensure that your award is being processed.

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.

HOW YOUR AID OFFER WAS DETERMINED

Now that you have a better idea about what forms of assistance make up your financial aid offer, it's time to look at how your financial aid offer was determined. A detailed explanation of our awarding process is online at luther.edu/admissions/financial-aid/need.





Student Work-Study Program

The student work-study program provides you with on-campus employment or off-campus community service work, if eligible, while attending Luther.

You can put money you earn through your work-study job toward your college expenses, thus reducing your need to borrow additional funds.

Many students also value that their work-study job allows them another way to participate in the Luther community and gives them work experience they can use in the future.

The amount of work-study listed on your financial aid offer represents the maximum you may earn through the work-study program. If you do not work the number of hours required to earn the full amount of your award, you will receive payment for only the hours you worked.

Most Luther students work an average of six to 10 hours per week to earn their maximum award amount for the year. You are paid biweekly based on the number of hours you worked the previous pay period.

If you wish to use a portion of your anticipated student work earnings as a credit on your student account, complete a Work-Study Payment Agreement with the Student Accounts Office.

You may choose to contract up to 90 percent of your authorized work-study maximum in a Work-Study Payment

Agreement. Additional information on this plan will be mailed to you from the Student Accounts Office when you decide to attend Luther.

The Student Employment Office assigns you to a position for your first year at Luther. Returning students arrange their positions prior to leaving campus for the summer.

Positions are available throughout the college and include opportunities in research, tutoring, community service, administration and office operations, computing and library services, dining services, and facilities management.

Loan Programs

Student loans are funds borrowed by the student that must be repaid to the lender with specified interest during an established repayment period. Additional information can be found on our website at luther.edu/admissions/financial-aid/loans.

Tax Credit Opportunities

The Taxpayer Relief Act enacted the American Opportunity and Lifetime Learning Tuition tax credits; tax-free status for distributions from private, prepaid tuition plans; penalty-free distributions from retirement funds for education; and a tax deduction for interest on educational loans. Please consult IRS Publication 970 or your tax adviser for more information.

APPEALS FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE

We try very hard to provide enough funding to make it possible for students to afford Luther.

We have a very good track record in this regard; each year about 450 new students—from all economic backgrounds—join us on campus. As hard as we try, though, the reality is that our supply of funds is not limitless.

As you review your financial aid offer, you may believe that we have overlooked something in your financial situation. You and your family may request a reevaluation of your financial aid offer.

Appeals must be submitted in writing with supporting documentation of any changes that have occurred in your family's situation. Parents' and student's tax returns for the appropriate tax year should be submitted along with any other information demonstrating your family's unique circumstances. Documentation should provide specific financial details for consideration of a recalculation.

Examples of special circumstances include such situations as loss of wages or unusual medical expenses. More information regarding special circumstances can be found on the Forms page of luther.edu/financial-aid.

The Financial Aid Office will grant additional assistance for approved appeals on a funds-available basis.

You will be notified in writing regarding the outcome of your appeal. If additional information is required, we will notify you and ask that you respond promptly.

GRADREADY

The Financial Aid Office has partnered with Ascendium Education Group 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 our financial aid website.